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California and Lagos Sign Historic Sister-State Agreement *Betting on Trade, Tech and Culture*

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow

What began as years of connections between California and Lagos has moved into a formal new chapter as the two governments established a sister-state relationship aimed at expanding trade, investment, technology, creative industries, and other areas of cooperation.

Lagos is California's first official sister-state relationship in West Africa, joining the Golden State's existing relationships elsewhere in Africa and around the world. California currently has 37 official Sister State, Friendship State, and Cooperation Agreement relationships.

The signing, formalized through Assembly Concurrent Resolution 129, was authored by Assemblymember Matt Haney (D-San Francisco), and co-authored by Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Ladera Heights).

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu traveled from Lagos to sign the agreement in person, calling it a document he intends to "frame and keep for a very long time."

Toks Omishakin, California Secretary of Transportation, who opened the evening, framed the moment against a broader geopolitical backdrop. "We're living in a very challenging time," he said, "increasingly focused on fences and walls being built between us, rather than bridges."

Omishakin stressed the partnership runs in both directions. He pointed to potential connections between California's entertainment industry and Lagos's Afrobeats scene, as well as between Silicon Valley and Lagos's Yaba technology cluster.

Omishakin also pointed to a less-publicized thread connecting the two regions: California's National Guard has partnered with the Nigerian military since 2006—a relationship he described as mutual rather than one-directional.

Assemblymember Haney said he discovered Nigerian musician Fireboy DML during the pandemic.

A lyric referencing San Francisco was included in a song the musician recorded at Empire, an independent label with deep Nigerian music ties blocks from Haney's home.

That inspired Haney to visit Lagos to learn more about the state's entertainment industry and to advocate for touring visas for Nigerian artists.

"Imagine the opportunities we can create," Haney said, "from Hollywood to Nollywood."

Sanwo-Olu said Lagos will bring a working team to California to build a roadmap toward



Lagos State Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu and Assemblymember Matt Haney in a ceremonial signing of ACR 129 making Lagos a sister-state with California (Photo Credit: Cecil Egbele)



(Photo Credit: Cecil Egbele)

increased trade, investment, and creative-industry cooperation.

Tubosun Alake, Lagos's Honorable Commissioner for Innovation, Science and Technology, said roughly 80 percent of Lagos's GDP comes from its private sector.

He pointed to the recent commissioning of a 40-megawatt data center in Lagos—described as the state's first hyperscale facility—as a step toward Lagos



Lagos State Governor, speaking on the opportunities in Lagos (Photo Credit: Cecil Egbele)

processing its own AI workloads locally rather than relying on data centers in California or Virginia.

The goal, he said, is "localizing the technology" and reducing dependence on AI models trained without African context in mind.

Those possibilities formed the springboard for the California-Lagos Business & Investment Summit, hosted by Afretrade, a California-based platform connecting African businesses to global markets.

The summit brought business owners, entrepreneurs, investors, funders and other stakeholders together for sector-focused discussions, business matchmaking and investor introductions.

"This particular agreement, I've been dreaming of it for so long before today," said Lekan Salaam, Afretrade CEO.

The relationship also has implications beyond government and large institutional investors.

Dr. Veronica Ufuegbune, a community leader involved in efforts to strengthen the Nigerian diaspora, said the agreement could create opportunities for Nigerian-owned small businesses in California, including restaurants, catering and



Lagos State Governor (third from the left) hold a copy of ACR 129, flanked by some of the state's delegation (Photo Credit: Cecil Egbele)

fashion, once "real funding channels open up." She also highlighted opportunities in technology, real estate, training and mentorship.

As California and Lagos begin working out what their sister-state relationship will look like in practice, the central question is no longer whether the two regions have complementary strengths.

Officials and business leaders now have to determine how to connect those strengths through capital, partnerships, technology, and people—long after administration changes.

"Governors come and go in Sacramento and in Lagos," Sanwo-Olu said, "but sisters, they do remain long after those of us in this room have handed our offices to other hands."



California Transport Secretary Toks Omishakin speaking on the ties California and Lagos have built over the years and how ACR 129 can further the relationship (Photo Credit: Cecil Egbele)



25 Year Old Black Woman Wins NASA's \$300,000 Prize for a System Designed to Feed Astronauts on Mars

Chinyere "Chichi" Ukeje, 25, of Northeast Philadelphia, has won NASA's \$300K first place prize in Mars to Table, an international competition within NASA's Deep Space Food Challenge series. She created a unique system designed to feed future astronauts who will travel to Mars.

She grew up in Bowie, Maryland, and spent part of high school in Nigeria. She earned a computer science degree at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County, and is now studying for a master's degree at Johns Hopkins University.

She comments, "The problem of feeding astronauts on Mars is more than just growing crops. You want them to feel at home when they are millions of miles from home."

She added that she poured herself into the project, which was administered by the Methuselah Foundation, and will use the prize money to support further food technology research.



Converse Pulls Ad After Outrage Over Racist Imagery

At first glance, Converse's latest ad campaign looks like a pair of feet hanging next to a white robe, which drew understandable outrage.

Several pairs of black Converse sneakers arranged on a white background, casting shadows in the shape of a star.

I don't know how, in the big '26, companies are still stepping on rakes when it comes to racist advertising. Converse has pulled a recent ad campaign and issued an apology after widespread outrage over the racist connotations.

The Washington Post reports that the ad campaign promoted the Chuck 70 X, a redesign of the brand's signature Chuck Taylor shoe. The company removed the ad from most of its social media platforms over the weekend, though many people are understandably upset that the campaign was approved in the first place.

If you weren't aware, a few weeks ago Converse, which is owned by Nike, released a new ad campaign that showed a woman wearing a white skirt holding a pair of Chuck Taylors. While it sounds innocuous, the lighting and framing of the image looked a lot like a Ku Klux Klan robe, with the shoes resembling a pair of hanging feet.

"We're sorry," Nike said in a statement, adding, "We understand why this image is deeply upsetting and recognize that we got this wrong. We removed it from our channels and are working to remove it everywhere it appeared."

"As a Black man and someone who loves Converse shoes, I find this very insensitive and distasteful," Kendall Peacock, who runs the Education Firm, a tutoring and mentorship program in Atlanta, said on social media. "Deliberate racist intent hasn't been established yet, but that doesn't erase the impact."

Not everyone shared Peacock's assessment of the image.

"Shadow, light, and composition. Every photographer can tell you, whoever did this ad knew EXACTLY what they were doing," the Chicago-based photographer Stephanie Schwartz wrote on Threads on Thursday.

I saw the ad come up organically in my feed, and I had to do a double-take to understand what I was looking at because, y'all. At first glance, it looked pretty damn horrific.

Like, how are you a sneaker company and not a single Black person reviewed the campaign? How are you a sneaker company that's largely maintained relevancy through Black creatives like Tyler, the Creator, and not thought, "hey, maybe this ain't a good look."

This honestly could've been avoided if the model simply didn't hold the shoes, or if it was an overhead shot showing the shoes at each point of the star. Nike isn't even one of the companies that got rid of its DEI initiatives, so I'm really at a loss as to how this happened.

Remember when sneaker ads either showed the shoe in use or were just silly fun? I really think marketing teams should look into bringing back those days, because if I had to choose between being seen as campy or horrifically racist, I'm going camp all day.

Gov. Newsom Signed Black Caucus Members' Bills Focused on Ballot Counting, Drones and Public Health

By Antonio Ray Harvey
California Black Media

Gov. Gavin Newsom has signed legislation authored by Sen. Laura Richardson (D-Inglewood) that establishes uniform procedures for handling vote-by-mail ballots cast in person without identification envelopes.

Newsom signed Senate Bill (SB) 1420 on Sept. 19 as part of a broader election-protection package. Richardson introduced the measure after her closely contested 2024 state Senate race took more than three weeks to resolve, causing her to miss several days of Senate orientation.

Richardson won the race by 2,718 votes, a margin of about 1.1 percentage points.

"In my particular election, it took three weeks after the polls closed for my election to the state Senate to be confirmed," said Richardson, a member of the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC). "During that time, I was left with questions and problems I could neither answer nor solve. It's important that we can call our elections more quickly and, of course, accurately."

SB 1420 requires the Secretary of State to establish uniform procedures that county election officials must follow when voters cast vote-by-mail ballots in person without the ballots' identification envelopes. The bill also requires those procedures to be posted on the Secretary of State's website.

Those procedures must address how election workers check in voters, verify that each voter has the correct ballot, protect ballot secrecy and ensure that no voter submits more than one ballot without an identification envelope. The Secretary of State must consult county registrars and other election stakeholders while developing the regulations.

The law also requires the state voter information guide and election outreach materials to explain vote-by-mail and early-voting procedures.

"The accuracy of our elections is second to none across the nation," Richardson said. "This bill is simply a way to improve the speed and, for those who do vote by mail, have it done in a faster way."



SB 1420, authored by Sen. Laura Richardson (D-Inglewood), was signed into law by Gov. Gavin Newsom on Sept. 19. The bill establishes uniform statewide procedures for "Sign, Scan and Go" voting and protects California's elections from outside political interference. On Aug. 10, Richardson is shown here having a conversation with Sen. Brian Jones (R-Santee) on the Senate floor at the State Capitol. CBM photo by Antonio Ray Harvey.

Because SB 1420 contained an urgency clause, it took effect immediately after Newsom signed it and Secretary of State Shirley N. Weber's office chapered it. The provision allows election officials to implement the requirements before the Nov. 3 general election.

Newsom has also signed other priority measures carried by members of the CLBC.

On Sept. 14, he signed Assembly Bill (AB) 2161, authored by Assemblymember Mia Bonta (D-Oakland). The law is intended to help eligible Californians retain Medi-Cal coverage as the state implements new federal work and community-engagement requirements.

Beginning no sooner than Jan. 1, 2027, certain Medi-Cal beneficiaries ages 19 to 64 will generally

be required to document at least 80 hours per month of work, community service or participation in a work program. Or they will be required to enroll at least half time in an educational program to maintain coverage.

AB 2161 requires counties to verify information through available data when possible, maintain coverage during specified verification periods and check whether applicants or beneficiaries qualify for Medi-Cal on another basis before denying or terminating coverage. It also requires counties to resolve conflicting information with beneficiaries before taking adverse action.

"AB 2161 ensures California does not extend these requirements beyond federal law, prevents them from applying to state-funded populations, and improves how eligibility is processed and communicated, helping eligible individuals and families stay covered," Bonta said.

Newsom also signed AB 2339 by Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson (D-Carson) on Sept. 26. Known as the Accuracy in Mental Health Reporting Act, the law strengthens reporting requirements involving people who are prohibited from possessing firearms because of involuntary mental health treatment or specified court findings.

Among other provisions, the law clarifies which facilities are responsible for submitting reports to the California Department of Justice and requires supporting records to accompany certain reports. It also strengthens confidentiality protections governing the information.

Candace Chung, a deputy attorney general who appeared on behalf of Attorney General Rob Bonta before the Senate Public Safety Committee in June, said about 219,000 firearm-prohibiting mental health holds are reported to the department each year.

"This bill will improve accuracy and consistency in reporting," Chung said. "It clarifies what information needs to be reported, who's responsible for reporting it, and creates additional safeguards against errors by requiring supporting documentation."

HBCU Leaders, Corporate Partners Convene in D.C. to Strengthen Support for Black Colleges' Athletic Programs

By Norman Rich
Black Press USA Wire

Commissioners from HBCU athletic conferences joined university presidents and corporate leaders in Washington on Tuesday, Sept. 15, for the Salute to HBCU Sports Leadership Reception — an invitation-only gathering aimed at deepening investment in historically Black colleges and universities.

Hosted at Gensler's K Street office, the evening brought together conference commissioners, campus presidents, and executives from sports, media and design organizations under the theme "Building Partnerships. Celebrating Excellence. Advancing HBCUs." Gensler highlighted its partnership with Paxton Baker on the event in a post on Instagram, showcasing the room full of HBCU presidents and conference leaders.

Five Conferences, One Room

Commissioners from four NCAA conferences and one NAIA conference were on hand, representing institutions that compete across Division I, Division II and the NAIA:

Anthony Holloman — Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference Charles McClelland — Southwestern Athletic Conference Jacqie McWilliams Parker — Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association Sonja Stills — Mid-Eastern Athletic Conference Kiki Baker Barnes — HBCU Athletic Conference

Their presence linked leadership from across the HBCU athletics landscape with campus administrators and organizations working in event management, design and media.

Presidents and Black Press Leadership in the Room



Among the university presidents in attendance were Prairie View A&M's Tomikia P. LeGrande and Bowie State's Aminta H. Breaux.

LeGrande's appearance came just days after the Thurgood Marshall College Fund named her the recipient of its Educational Leadership Award, as announced by Prairie View A&M. She was honored at TMC's 39th Anniversary Gala on Sept. 12 in Washington. LeGrande has served as Prairie View A&M's ninth president since June 2023.

Breaux, who has led Bowie State since July 2017, previously chaired the CIAA's board of directors, according to her university biography.

Benjamin F. Chavis Jr., president and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association, also attended — fitting, given the NNPA's role as one of the reception's presenting partners. Chavis and HBCU GO's Lawrencia Moten conducted two

30-minute interview sessions with the conference commissioners, covering topics ranging from the NIL era to conference growth and the experience of leading HBCU athletics, according to HBCU GO President Curtis Symonds, who spoke with HBCU Legends about the sessions.

Corporate and Institutional Partners

Five organizations presented the reception together:

Gensler — the architecture and design firm that hosted the event Events DC — the District's convention and sports authority USA Track & Field — the sport's national governing body National Newspaper Publishers Association — representing Black newspaper publishers HBCU GO — the network dedicated to HBCU sports and culture

That mix of partners pointed to a range of possible collaborations ahead, from athletic facilities and event operations to sports programming and media coverage.

Building Beyond the Scoreboard

What stood out most was the mix of people in the room — conference commissioners setting strategy for their leagues, university presidents shaping institutional priorities, and corporate partners bringing resources and expertise from multiple industries.

With college athletics undergoing rapid change, particularly for HBCUs navigating the NIL era and shifting conference dynamics, the reception offered a venue for candid conversation and relationship-building. Its underlying purpose went beyond athletics: using sports as an entry point to broader opportunities in education, workforce development and economic growth for HBCUs.

The Audacity of Joyce Beatty



Dr. Julianne Malveaux is a Washington, D.C. based economist, author and commentator. Visit www.julianne-malveaux.com.

By Julianne Malveaux
Black Press USA Wire

Standing up to a bully requires more than slogans, press releases, or carefully staged outrage. It requires looking power in the face, refusing intimidation and saying, plainly, no. Congresswoman Joyce Beatty has that courage.

The Ohio Democrat and former chair of the Congressional Black Caucus is standing virtually alone inside the Kennedy Center's governing structure against Donald Trump's attempted seizure of a national cultural institution. Trump has installed loyalists, pushed aside dissenters, and tried to plaster his name onto a building Congress designated as a living memorial to President John

F. Kennedy.

Beatty sued. And she won, not once, but twice. She did not merely issue a statement; she used the law, reminding Trump and his enablers that public institutions are not presidential playthings and that a board vote cannot erase an act of Congress.

Trump answered with insults and threats. During a virtual board meeting, he reportedly called Beatty "destructive," claimed she had "never built anything," and threatened to hold her responsible if the deteriorating building caused a death. That was not an argument. It was intimidation dressed up as authority.

Beatty did not fold. She has been pepper-sprayed while protesting police violence and arrested while demanding voting rights. She knows what it means to put her body, not merely her name, behind a principle. Now she is defending a public institution from a president who thinks anything touched by government belongs to him.

Audacity means boldness, nerve, even temerity. It is neither virtue nor vice until we ask: audacity in the service of what?

Trump's is criminal audacity: the brazen nerve to privatize public memory and turn a national memorial into a vanity project. It is audacity in the service of ego, domination and theft.

Beatty's is righteous audacity: the moral nerve to confront illegitimate power and refuse to be muted. Accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in 1964, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. declared, "I have the audacity to believe," then spoke of food, education, culture, dignity, equality and freedom for people everywhere. That was audacity in the service of justice. That is the tradition Joyce Beatty claims.

Coming out of Congressional Black Caucus

Week, her example provokes a larger question: What is Black political power for?

The CBC was founded in 1971 by 13 members who understood that representation without collective action was insufficient. They boycotted President Richard Nixon's State of the Union address and demanded a meeting about Black America. They were not invited to power's table because the powerful developed good manners. They organized, insisted, and disrupted.

Today the CBC is larger and more institutionally powerful than its founders could have imagined. Black members hold seniority, key committee positions, and party leadership. Hakeem Jeffries could become the first Black Speaker of the House. But proximity to power is not power, and titles are not transformation.

CBC week brings urgent policy debates about voting rights, economic justice, health, education and Black political power. It gathers ambitious young people, seasoned public servants, advocates and entrepreneurs, along with more receptions than any human can reasonably attend. Yet we must not confuse access with action or networking with movement-building. The measure of the gathering comes after the ballroom lights go dark.

Will voting rights be defended and predatory redistricting challenged? Will Black unemployment, Black maternal mortality and the racial wealth gap be treated as emergencies rather than perennial panel topics? Will elected officials confront authoritarianism when it is risky?

Joyce Beatty has answered with her actions. Her fight is about more than a building. Cultural institutions tell us whose history is honored and whose names endure. Trump's desire

to rename the Kennedy Center is part of his effort to rewrite history, punish dissent, and place himself at the center of every American story. He does not simply want power. He wants tribute. Beatty refuses to pay it.

Black women have often supplied the labor and backbone of American democracy while others received the credit. They organize voters, steady institutions, defend the Constitution, and are told to lower their voices. Beatty's voice was literally muted during a Kennedy Center meeting. She found another microphone: the federal courts. Resistance is not always a march. Sometimes it is a lawsuit, a vote or a refusal to consent. Sometimes it is one woman in a hostile room saying, "You may have the votes, but you do not have the law."

Courage deserves to be named. We saw it in Barbara Lee, standing alone against the sweeping 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force and warning against a blank check for endless war. We saw it in Barbara Jordan, a freshman on the House Judiciary Committee, making the Constitution thunder during Watergate. We see it in Maxine Waters, using her financial leadership to confront predatory lending, discriminatory finance, and attacks on consumers. And we see it now in Joyce Beatty.

The CBC has long called itself the conscience of the Congress. Conscience is not a ceremonial title. It is a duty. At a moment when too many people accommodate the outrageous, normalize the abnormal, and calculate the cost of speaking, Beatty has chosen to fight. Her righteous audacity is not simply that she challenged a president. She refused to let public memory become private vanity.

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Errin Haines, NABJ President

Statement from the President of the National Association of Black Journalists on Press Ban

By Erin Haines
NABJ President Black Press USA Wire

NABJ condemns President Donald Trump's decision to deny access to MS NOW journalists and his threat to exclude CNN and Politico because of coverage he dislikes. The role of journalists is to hold power accountable on behalf of the American people. Government officials cannot reward reporting they find favorable with access, or withhold access as punishment for journalists who have scrutinized or criticized them. This retaliation is a

threat not only to the news organizations being targeted, but to every journalist working to report independently and without fear of government reprisal. The White House belongs to the American people, and they have a right to know what their government is doing. Journalists must be free to ask difficult questions and report the answers. A free and independent press is not a privilege granted at the discretion of any president. It is a cornerstone to a healthy and functioning democracy. The First Amendment can never be optional.

IN MEMORIAM:

The Rev. Leon "Sonny" Clark, Longtime Orange County Pastor and Community Leader, Dies at 72

By Bo Tefu
California Black Media Oakland Post

Rev. Leon William "Sonny" Clark, longtime pastor of New Spirit Baptist Church in Santa Ana and a respected faith and community leader in Orange County, died Sept. 9. He was 72.

Born Oct. 2, 1953, in Bennettsville, South Carolina, Clark was a U.S. Navy veteran who later built a life of service centered on family, faith, ministry, and community.

Clark began his formal ministry at Metropolitan Baptist Church in Altadena in 1978. After acknowledging his call to ministry in 1980, he preached his first sermon and went on to serve churches throughout Southern California, including Second Baptist Church in Riverside, Mount Vernon Baptist Church in Rubidoux, Antioch Missionary Baptist Church in Pomona, and Friendship Baptist Church in Yorba Linda.

In November 2003, Clark was called to lead New Spirit Baptist Church in Santa Ana, where he served as pastor for more than 22 years. His work extended beyond the pulpit through counseling, mentoring, civic engagement, and efforts to strengthen Orange County's African American community.

Clark served on the Orange County Heritage Council and supported efforts to preserve and celebrate African American history and culture. He helped organize the Orange County Black History Parade and Unity Festival, served on the Interfaith Committee and the Orange County Transit Authority, and served as president of the Orange County Ministers Conference.

In 2024, the City of Santa Ana recognized Clark for his contributions to the community. He also received the Orange County Southern Baptist Association Hall of Faith Award and was previously honored as Pastor of the Year by the Orange County Heritage Council.

Clark is survived by his wife, Andrea Joyles Clark; six children, Shawn Williams, Le Ondra



The Rev. Leon "Sonny" Clark. File photo.

Clark Harvey, Kyla Coward, Joshua Clark, Marissa Clark and Ashley Clark; grandchildren and great-grandchildren; siblings; extended family; and the New Spirit Baptist Church congregation.

A wake will be held Thursday, Oct. 1, from 4 to 8 p.m. at New Spirit Baptist Church, 701 S. Sullivan St. in Santa Ana, with a remembrance service from 5 to 6:30 p.m.

A Celebration of Life will be held Friday, Oct. 2, at Friendship Baptist Church, 17145 Bastanchury Road in Yorba Linda. Viewing begins at noon, followed by the service at 1 p.m.

Burial will take place Monday, Oct. 5, at 10:15 a.m. at Riverside National Cemetery.

Clark often shared a guiding principle that shaped his ministry: "Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can."



Patti LaBelle, Common and Public Enemy Honored for Their Impact on Black Music at BMAC Gala

LaBelle received the Icon Award, while Common and Public Enemy were recognized for decades of music and social impact. Common and Public Enemy were honored for their decades of socially conscious music at the sixth annual BMAC Gala in Beverly Hills on Thursday, Sept. 24. Common received the Harry Belafonte Change Agent Award, while Public Enemy took home the Social Impact Award.

Africanews reported that Common used the moment to reflect on the place of conscious rap

in today's music. He argued that artists are still addressing meaningful issues even if they are not always labeled political or conscious, pointing to Kendrick Lamar and Earl Sweatshirt as examples. Chuck D, who accepted on behalf of Public Enemy, focused on what younger artists can learn from the group's legacy. He said today's musicians do not need to recreate Public Enemy, but should understand their audience, the purpose behind their work and the history of the art form. Public Enemy has spent more than four decades pairing

politically charged music with commentary on racism, inequality and Black life. The ceremony also honored Patti LaBelle with the BMAC Icon Award, adding another major recognition to a career stretching more than six decades. Other honorees included Interscope executive Nicole Wiskorok, music executive Tina Davis, members of The Roots and Universal Music Group's Global Impact Team. The Black Music Action Coalition's event brought together performers, executives, advocates

and other cultural figures, with the organization using the night to highlight equity, accountability, access and opportunity across the entertainment industry. For Common and Public Enemy, the recognition centered on the same theme that has defined much of their work: using music as a platform for social commentary. Their honors at the BMAC Gala also underscored how that tradition continues to shape contemporary hip-hop and Black music.

Snoop Dogg Turns the VMAs' Return to Los Angeles Into a West Coast Homecoming

By Peter Kerich

Snoop Dogg brought his signature West Coast personality to the 2026 MTV Video Music Awards on Sunday, hosting the ceremony in Los Angeles and joking that he was responsible for bringing the VMAs back to his hometown. The hip-hop icon opened the show at Peacock Theater with jokes, celebrity shout-outs and a promise to make it "the biggest party the VMAs has ever seen." The VMAs had been held on the East Coast since 2018, according to Billboard, making the ceremony's return to Los Angeles a notable homecoming for Snoop. The rapper has deep ties to the city and the West Coast hip-hop scene. "When they first asked me to host this award show, I said, 'Is it gonna be in L.A.?' I said, 'No? Well, I'm busy,'" Snoop joked during his opening monologue. He said organizers eventually called him back with a change of plans. "They called me back and

said, 'Hold on, Mr. Dogg. It's in L.A. now.'" That set the tone for a ceremony built around Snoop's personality and his connection to Los Angeles. The rapper leaned into his longtime cannabis-friendly persona while promising to make the night memorable for the show's winners. "So having this show hosted by me in my city means two things: One, tonight is going to be the biggest party the VMAs has ever seen," Snoop said. "And two, it wouldn't be a Snoop Dogg party if I didn't provide some of that special sticky icky icky. Hold on, that's for every winner here tonight." Snoop also acknowledged several of the night's major stars, including Madonna, who opened the ceremony, and Taylor Swift. The 54-year-old rapper added some traditional Snoop humor to the opening, including a brief stand-up routine and a "Deez Nuts" knock-knock joke.



Flo Anthony, Pioneering Black Entertainment Journalist and Television Personality, Dies at 74

From Page Six to television and radio, Anthony built a decades-long career covering some of entertainment's biggest names.

By Bolarinwa Oladeji

Florence "Flo" Anthony, the entertainment journalist whose byline and on-air presence made her one of the most recognizable Black women in celebrity media for four decades, died Aug. 6 of cancer at 74. Her death was confirmed to the New York Amsterdam News, her longtime publication, by Jack Hirsch, biographer of her husband, Olympic and professional boxing champion Michael Spinks. Born in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1952, Anthony's path into journalism ran through the boxing world, where she worked as a publicist for Muhammad Ali, Larry Holmes and Spinks himself. She joined the New York Post in 1986 as an agate clerk with ambitions of covering sports, an arrangement that ended when editors moved her to entertainment. As she recounted in a 2013 interview cited by Deadline, the transition came with a blunt assessment of her performance in the sports role, but the result was historic. She described going "from the first African American woman in the sports department to the first African American woman in the entertainment department," ultimately becoming the first woman on staff in the department that houses Page Six. Television made her a household presence. Anthony became a regular contributor and occasional co-host on E!'s "The Gossip Show" across its entire run from 1993 to 1998, and appeared on programs hosted by Joan Rivers, Maury Povich, Sally Jessy Raphael and Geraldo Rivera. She was also a frequent voice on TV One's "Unsung" and "Life After." Her weekly "Go with the Flo" column launched in the Amsterdam News in the early 2000s and went into syndication, running alongside her



national radio segments. She served as publisher and editor-in-chief of Black Noir and edited Black Elegance, and authored several novels. Anthony held firm views about the work itself, defining a journalist as someone who researches, talks to people and breaks stories rather than lifting material from elsewhere. She began dating Spinks in 1987, during his reign as IBF heavyweight champion, and the two married earlier this year. Details on survivors and memorial arrangements were not immediately available.

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County Clerk
By: J PADILLA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/24/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5342
Doing business as:
THE WATER COMPANY at 6021 CURTIS PLACE, CALIFORNIA CITY, CA 93505
Mailing address: 6021 CURTIS PLACE, CALIFORNIA CITY, CA 93505
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **DANIEL PATRICK CROWLEY** at 6021 CURTIS PLACE, CALIFORNIA CITY, CA 93505
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **DANIEL PATRICK CROWLEY**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 05/08/2001
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/31/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/31/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5322
Doing business as:
BLESSED HANDS CO at 501 PACHECO RD APT 4, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 501 PACHECO RD, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **MICHELLE FRANCES THOMAS** at 501 PACHECO RD APT 4, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **MICHELLE FRANCES THOMAS**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/28/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5366
FILE NO: 2026-B5367
Doing business as:
VALLEY FIRST TAX AND INSURANCE /VALLEY FIRST TAX AND INSURANCE SERVICES at 10305 RIATA LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
Mailing address: 10305 RIATA LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **CHRISTINA ARLENE GRAVES** at 10305 RIATA LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **CHRISTINA ARLENE GRAVES**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on:

PUBLIC NOTICE

07/01/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/31/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/31/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5363
Doing business as:
LUMEND at 9812 BATTERSEA PARK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312, KERN COUNTY
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **ANTONIO A LUCIO** at 9812 BATTERSEA PARK DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **ANTONIO A LUCIO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/24/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/31/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/31/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5374
Doing business as:
MARISCOS LOS MOCHIS RESTAURANT at 2121 E CALIFORNIA AVE # B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307, KERN COUNTY
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **MAZEN KTECH KTECH** at 2121 E CALIFORNIA AVE # B, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
The business is conducted by: General Partnership
SIGNED: **Mazen Ktech**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 09/01/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/01/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M CEJA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/01/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5340
Doing business as:
EAGLE CELLULAR PHONE REPAIR at 3945 HUGHES LANE SUITE C, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 3945 HUGHES LANE SUITE C, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **REMIGIO GARAY** at 3945 HUGHES LANE SUITE C, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **REMIGIO GARAY**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/01/2011
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/31/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J PADILLA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who

PUBLIC NOTICE

declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/31/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5226
Doing business as:
JUNK JOURNEY, INC. at 2400 WINGATE COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
Mailing address: 2400 WINGATE COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **JUNK JOURNEY, INC.** at 2400 WINGATE COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Cristobal Torres, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/25/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/25/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5227
Doing business as:
TORRES PLASTERING & PAINT, INC. at 2400 WINGATE COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
Mailing address: 2400 WINGATE COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **TORRES PLASTERING & PAINT, INC.** at 2400 WINGATE COURT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93311
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Corporation
SIGNED: **Cristobal Torres, CEO**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/25/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/25/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5393
Doing business as:
JB RENTAL SERVICES LLC at 13127 ROBERTSON ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313, KERN
Mailing address: 13127 ROBERTSON ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **JB RENTAL SERVICES LLC** at 13127 ROBERTSON ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Herberto Aguayo, Member**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 08/26/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/02/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/02/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B4637
Doing business as:
KITFOX CREATIVE at 9815 RIATA LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: PO BOX 80801, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93380
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **KITFOX CREATIVE LLC** at 9815

PUBLIC NOTICE

RIATA LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Chris Cervantes, Member**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 06/12/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 07/29/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 07/29/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5431
Doing business as:
MMM YOGURT 2 at 206 W KERN AVE, MCFARLAND, CA 93250-1361
Mailing address: 206 W KERN AVE, MCFARLAND, CA 93250-1361
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **MARIA DEL ROSARIO VARGAS RENTERIA** at 206 W KERN AVE, MCFARLAND, CA 93250-1361
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **MARIA DEL ROSARIO VARGAS RENTERIA**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/03/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/03/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5430
Doing business as:
LATE NIGHT CREATIONS LLC at 2404 MONTEREY ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **LATE NIGHT CREATIONS LLC** at 2404 MONTEREY ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by: Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Yolanda Fausto, Member**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/03/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/03/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5459
Doing business as:
KIM'S COOKIES at 15150 FIR CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314, KERN
Mailing address: 15150 FIR CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **KIMBERLY RENEE AGUIRRE** at 15150 FIR CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **KIMBERLY RENEE AGUIRRE**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/04/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5416
Doing business as:
DIVINE LYFE at 13801 TABLE ROCK AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **RICHARD ROCCO SHEARS** at 13801 TABLE ROCK AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **RICHARD ROCCO SHEARS**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 04/15/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/02/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M VACA RAMOS, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/02/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5101
Doing business as:
LG PROPERTY MANAGEMENT at 2808 F ST SUITE D, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 2808 F ST SUITE D, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **LISBETH MARESA PERELLO**

PUBLIC NOTICE

business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/02/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5420
Doing business as:
GA LOGISTICS at 2528 SILLANO DR, DELANO, CA 93215
Mailing address: PO BOX 234, DELANO, CA 93216
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **ALICIA AVALOS DE GUTIERREZ** at PO BOX 234, DELANO, CA 93216
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **ALICIA AVALOS DE GUTIERREZ**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 05/15/2025
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/02/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H MENDOZA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/02/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5328
Doing business as:
DIAMOND DUST CLEANING SERVICES at 14343 ROWLAND AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314, KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 14343 ROWLAND AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **SHAYNA LYNN MCDANELL** at 14343 ROWLAND AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **SHAYNA LYNN MCDANELL**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 07/09/2026
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J PADILLA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/28/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5459
Doing business as:
KIM'S COOKIES at 15150 FIR CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314, KERN
Mailing address: 15150 FIR CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **KIMBERLY RENEE AGUIRRE** at 15150 FIR CT, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **KIMBERLY RENEE AGUIRRE**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/04/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5101
Doing business as:
BRIAN POOLE, an individual; and DOES 1 to 5, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO) EL DEMANDANTE): FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF OMAHA, a National Banking Association

PUBLIC NOTICE

OCHOA at 2808 F ST SUITE D, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **LISBETH MARESA PERELLO OCHOA**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: 10/01/2025
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 08/19/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J PADILLA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 08/19/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5467
Doing business as:
ALEXARI LOCKSMITH at 909 GUADALUPE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
Mailing address: 909 GUADALUPE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s): **DAVID ALEXANDER CRUZ UMANZOR** at 909 GUADALUPE AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
The business is conducted by: Individual
SIGNED: **DAVID ALEXANDER CRUZ UMANZOR**
The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business name or names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the County Clerk of Kern County on: 09/04/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA, Deputy
This fictitious Business Name Statement expires five years from the date it was filed in the County Clerk's Office. A new fictitious business name statement must be filed before that time. The filing of this statement does not of itself authorize the use in this state of a fictitious business name in violation of the rights of another to a trademark or trade name under federal, state, or common law (see section 14411 ET SEQ., business and professions code). I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on: 09/04/2031

BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B3382
Business Name you wish to abandon:
GOLDEN OX WHITE LANE at 4815 WHITE LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
Mailing address: same
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: **GERASIMOS MAVROKEFALOS** at 4815 WHITE LANE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
SIGNED: **GERASIMOS MAVROKEFALOS, CEO**
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 05/28/2026
Original File No: 2026-B3382
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 08/31/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
M SALES, Deputy
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME
FILE NO: 2026-B4179
Business Name you wish to abandon:
DIAMOND DUST CLEANING SERVICES at 14343 ROWLAND AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
Mailing address: same
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to abandon the business name: **SHAYNA LYNN MCDANELL** at 14343 ROWLAND AVE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
SIGNED: **SHAYNA LYNN MCDANELL, Owner**
The original fictitious business name statement was filed on: 07/08/2026
Original File No: 2026-B4179
This fictitious business name statement was abandoned as of: 08/28/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
J PADILLA, Deputy
I declare that all information in this Statement is true and correct. (A) Registrant who declares as true information which he or she knows to be false, is guilty of a crime
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

SUMMONS (CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Número del Caso): 26CLB03028
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT (AVISO AL DEMANDADO): CHYNA HALLIYAH WILLIAMS, an individual; ELAINE MARIA VASQUEZ, an individual; and DOES 1 to 5, inclusive
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF (LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO) EL DEMANDANTE): LENDMARK FINANCIAL SERVICES, LLC, a limited liability company
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 9, 16, 23, 30, 2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

N O T I C E !
You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of \$10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. **AVISO:** Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de \$10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desear el caso.
The name and address of the court is (El nombre y dirección de la corte es): SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA, COUNTY OF KERN
1215 TRUXTON AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is (El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o el demandante que no tiene abogado, es): James MacLeod (249145); Christina C. MacLeod (283945)
THE DUNNING LAW FIRM APC – California DFPI Debt Collector License # 10059-99
9619 Chesapeake Dr., Suite 210, San Diego, CA 92123
Tel. (858) 974-7600
DATE (Fecha): 04/01/2026
Tara Leal, Clerk (Secretario)
By Sadie Cazares, Deputy (Adjunto) (SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served.
BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER
PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7, 2026

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER
26CUB03091
Superior Court of the State of California, for the county of KERN
1215 TRUXTUN AVENUE, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
C I V I L - M E T R O P O L I T A N DIVISION JUSTICE BUILDING
PETITION OF: **ADELITA LERMA** FOR CHANGE OF NAME
TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS:
Petitioner: **ADELITA LERMA** Filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present name **ADELITA LERMA**
Proposed name **ADELITA MARINA LERMA**
THE COURT ORDERS: that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two court days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: October 27, 2026
Time: 8:30 AM
Dept: L
Room:
The address of the court is: same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show Cause must be published at least once a week for four successive weeks before the date set for hearing on the petition in a newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county BAKERSFIELD NEWS OBSERVER

selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay

PUBLIC NOTICE

Date: August 28, 2026
Gina M. Cervantes,
Judicial Officer
By: Monique Silva,
Deputy Clerk
Petitioner:
ADELITA LERMA
6004 PHYLIS ST,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
(661) 805-7068
**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5190**
Doing business as:
SACRED HEART HOME CARE
at 704 HEWLETT STREET,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309,
KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 704 HEWLETT
STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA
93309
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
JOHN KEVIN RADOVAN CLEMENO
at 704 HEWLETT STREET,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
JAY KEREN BAAL CLEMENO
at 704 HEWLETT STREET,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
The business is conducted by:
Married Couple
SIGNED: **JOHN KEVIN CLEMENO**
The registrant commenced to
transact business under the
fictitious business name or
names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County on:
08/24/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D. HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
08/24/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5452**
Doing business as:
DON LEO DIGITAL GALLERY at
11006 HARTLAND STREET,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312,
KERN
Mailing address: 11006
HARTLAND STREET,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
BRIGITTE STRIZAK at 11006
HARTLAND STREET,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
The business is conducted by:
Individual
SIGNED: **BRIGITTE STRIZAK**
The registrant commenced
to transact business under
the fictitious business name
or names listed above on:
05/01/2026

This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County on:
09/04/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M. SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
09/04/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5451**
Doing business as:

VOSS ENTERTAINMENT at
11006 HARTLAND STREET,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312,
KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 11006
HARTLAND STREET,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
BRIGITTE STRIZAK at 11006
HARTLAND STREET,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
The business is conducted by:
Individual
SIGNED: **BRIGITTE STRIZAK**
The registrant commenced to
transact business under the
fictitious business name or
names listed above on:
06/01/2026
This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County on:
09/04/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M. SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
09/04/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5495**
Doing business as:
ORGEX PAINTING at 140 BLISS ST,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
JOSE ORLANDO GOMEZ COLCHADO
at 140 BLISS ST, BAKERSFIELD,
CA 93307
The business is conducted by:
Individual
SIGNED: **JOSE ORLANDO GOMEZ
COLCHADO**
The registrant commenced to
transact business under the
fictitious business name or
names listed above on:
09/08/2026

This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County on:
09/08/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D. HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
09/08/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5504**
Doing business as:

**TORO MOCHO BOTANAS EL
TENEDERO** at 6509 SKY VIEW
DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
Mailing address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
CRISTINA PADILLA MEZA at 6509
SKY VIEW DR, BAKERSFIELD,
CA 93307
The business is conducted by:
Individual
SIGNED: **CRISTINA PADILLA MEZA**
The registrant commenced to
transact business under the
fictitious business name or
names listed above on:
05/14/2026
This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County on:
09/09/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M. SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
09/09/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5485**
Doing business as:

LIQUIDGOLDCRAY at
4324 MC CRAY ST APT B,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
Mailing address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
MICHAEL JULIAN WORKMAN at
4324 MC CRAY ST APT B,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
The business is conducted by:
Individual
SIGNED: **MICHAEL JULIAN
WORKMAN**
The registrant commenced to
transact business under the
fictitious business name or
names listed above on:
09/08/2026

This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County on:
09/08/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M. VACA RAMOS,
Deputy

This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
09/08/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5476**
Doing business as:

**Baker Street Village Community
Health Center** at 1015 Baker
Street, Ste 4, Bakersfield, CA
93305-4341
Mailing address: PO BOX 21810,
Bakersfield, CA 93390-1810
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
Clinica Sierra Vista at 9525
Camino Media, Bakersfield, CA
93311-1314
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by:
Corporation
SIGNED: **Olga Meave, M.D., Chief
Executive Officer**
The registrant commenced to
transact business under the
fictitious business name or
names listed above on:
05/17/2015
This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County

on: 09/08/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D. HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
09/08/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5531**
Doing business as:

ALTAGRACIA HOMES at 3501
MALL VIEW RD SUITE 115-360,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
AT ROCHA LLC at 3501 MALL
VIEW RD SUITE 115-360,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93306
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by:
Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **JESSICA ROCHA, CEO**
The registrant commenced to
transact business under the
fictitious business name or
names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County on:
09/09/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: H. MENDOZA,
Deputy

This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
09/09/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5533**
Doing business as:

CARRILLO & SONS TRANSPORTATION
at 1832 INYO ST, DELANO, CA
93215
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
MICHAEL CRUZ CARRILLO at 1832
INYO ST, DELANO, CA 93215
The business is conducted by:
Individual
SIGNED: **MICHAEL CRUZ CARRILLO**
The registrant commenced to
transact business under the
fictitious business name or
names listed above on:
08/28/2026
This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County on:
09/10/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D. HINOJOSA,
Deputy

This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
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violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
09/10/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5542**
Doing business as:

SCULPTE ACADEMY at 1514 18TH
ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
Mailing address: 5601 COFFEE
RD APT 121, BAKERSFIELD,
CA 93308
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
MARIA L CAMACHO at 5601
COFFEE RD APT 121,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
The business is conducted by:
Individual
SIGNED: **MARIA L CAMACHO**
The registrant commenced to
transact business under the
fictitious business name or
names listed above on:
09/09/2026

This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County on:
09/10/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D. HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
09/10/2031

BAKERSFIELD

NEWS OBSERVER
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5517**
Doing business as:

AW CYTOHISTOLOGY LABORATORY
at 1700 C STREET,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
Mailing address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
AGNES YU-YUAN WU at 1700 C
STREET, BAKERSFIELD, CA
93301
The business is conducted by:
Individual
SIGNED: **AGNES YU-YUAN WU**
The registrant commenced to
transact business under the
fictitious business name or
names listed above on:
07/01/2004

This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County on:
09/09/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M. SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
09/09/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5013**
Doing business as:

AWAKEN THERAPEUTIC MESSAGE
at 1400 EASTON DRIVE,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
Mailing address: 2120
POTOMAC AVENUE,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
CLARISSA MARIE VELEZ at
2120 POTOMAC AVENUE,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
The business is conducted by:
Individual
SIGNED: **CLARISSA MARIE VELEZ**
The registrant commenced to
transact business under the
fictitious business name or
names listed above on:
02/20/2025

This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County on:
08/14/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M. SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
08/14/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5201**
Doing business as:

PRIME EXCHANGE at 706 SIOUX
CREEK DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD,
CA 93312
Mailing address: 706 SIOUX
CREEK DRIVE, BAKERSFIELD,
CA 93312
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
WEST COAST LEGACY SALES LLC
at 706 SIOUX CREEK DRIVE,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by:
Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Tanner Brown, Member**
The registrant commenced to
transact business under the
fictitious business name or
names listed above on:
01/01/2026

This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County on:
08/24/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D. HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
08/24/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO: 2026-B5090**
Doing business as:

ONE23 BRAIDS AND BEAUTY BAR at
310 F ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA
93304
Mailing address: same
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
TEMIA COQUISE WILLIAMS at 310
F ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93304
The business is conducted by:
Individual
SIGNED: **TEMIA COQUISE
WILLIAMS**
The registrant commenced

to transact business under
the fictitious business name
or names listed above on:
08/12/2021
This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County on:
08/18/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J. PADILLA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
08/18/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME**
FILE NO: 2026-B5127
Business Name you wish to
abandon:

SACRED HEART HOME CARE
at 704 HEWLETT STREET,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to
abandon the business name:
JOHN KEVIN RADOVAN CLEMENO
at 704 HEWLETT STREET,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93309
SIGNED: **JOHN KEVIN RADOVAN
CLEMENO**
The original fictitious business
name statement was filed on:
08/20/2026
Original File No: 2026-B5127
This fictitious business name
statement was abandoned as of:
08/24/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
D. HINOJOSA,
Deputy
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime.

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME**
FILE NO: 2026-B0920
Business Name you wish to
abandon:

**TORO MOCHO BOTANAS EL
TENEDERO** at 6509 SKY VIEW
DR, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to
abandon the business name:
EFREN FLORES OBESO at 6509
SKY VIEW DR, BAKERSFIELD,
CA 93307
CRISTINA PADILLA MEZA at 6509
SKY VIEW DR, BAKERSFIELD,
CA 93307
SIGNED: **EFREN FLORES OBESO,
Owner**
The original fictitious business
name statement was filed on:
02/17/2026
Original File No: 2026-B0920
This fictitious business name
statement was abandoned as of:
09/09/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
M. SALES
Deputy
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime.

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME**
FILE NO: 2026-B2942
Business Name you wish to
abandon:

**Baker Street Village Community
Health Center** at 1015 Baker
Street, Ste 4, Bakersfield, CA
93305-4341
Mailing address: PO Box 21810,
Bakersfield, CA 93390-1810
County: Kern
Registrant(s) whose wish to
abandon the business name:
Clinica Sierra Vista at 9525
Camino Media, Bakersfield, CA
93311-1314
SIGNED: **Olga Meave, M.D., Chief
Executive Officer**
The original fictitious business
name statement was filed on:
05/07/2026
Original File No: 2026-B2942
This fictitious business name
statement was abandoned as of:
09/08/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
D. HINOJOSA
Deputy
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime.

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT
OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME**
FILE NO: 2025-B1023
Business Name you wish to
abandon:

AWAKEN THERAPEUTIC MESSAGE
at 2120 POTOMAC AVE,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
County: KERN
Registrant(s) whose wish to
abandon the business name:
CLARISSA MARIE VELEZ at
2120 POTOMAC AVE,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307
SIGNED: **CLARISSA MARIE VELEZ,
Owner**
The original fictitious business
name statement was filed on:
02/20/2025
Original File No: 2025-B1023
This fictitious business name
statement was abandoned as of:
08/14/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
M. SALES
Deputy
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who

declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime.

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 16, 23, 30, Oct 7,
2026**

**NOTICE OF PETITION TO
ADMINISTER ESTATE OF
MARIA ELENA RIOS**
**CASE NUMBER:
26PRJ00314**

To all heirs, beneficiaries,
creditors, contingent
creditors, and persons
who may otherwise be
interested in the will or
estate, or both, of: **Maria
Elena Rios**
A PETITION FOR PROBATE
has been filed by **Rosalinda
Martinez**
in the Superior Court of
California, County of Kern
2100 College Ave
Bakersfield, CA 93305

THE PETITION FOR PROBATE
requests that **Rosalinda
Martinez** be appointed as
personal representative to
administer the estate of the
decedent.

THE PETITION requests
the decedent's will
and codicils, if any, be
admitted to probate. The
will and any codicils are
available for examination
in the file kept by the
court.

THE PETITION requests
authority to administer
the estate under the
Independent
Administration of Estates
Act. (This authority
will allow the personal
representative to take
many actions without
obtaining court approval.
Before taking certain
very important actions,
however, the personal
representative will be
required to give notice
to interested persons
unless they have waived
notice or consented to
the proposed action.)
The independent
administration authority
will be granted unless an
interested person files an
objection to the petition
and shows good cause
why the court should not
grant the authority.

A HEARING on the petition
will be held in this court as
follows:

Date: December 3, 2026
Time: 8:30 A.M. Dept: J-1
Room:

Address of court: same as
noted above

IF YOU OBJECT to the
granting of the petition,
you should appear at the
hearing and state your
objections or file written
objections with the
court before the hearing.
Your appearance may be
in person or by your
attorney.

IF YOU ARE A CREDITOR or a
contingent creditor of the
decedent, you must file
your claim with the court
and mail a copy to the
personal representative
appointed by the court
within the later of either (1)
four months from the date
of first issuance of letters
to a general personal
representative, as defined
in section 58(b) of the
California Probate Code,
or (2) 60 days from the
date of mailing or personal
delivery to you of a notice
under section 9052 of

Legal Notices

PUBLIC NOTICEPUBLIC NOTICEPUBLIC NOTICEPUBLIC NOTICEPUBLIC NOTICEPUBLIC NOTICEPUBLIC NOTICEPUBLIC NOTICE

Deputy Clerk
Petitioner:
Lucia Orozco
5005 Oswell Park Drive,
Bakersfield, CA 93307
661-809-9027

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21,
2026**

**ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE
FOR CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NUMBER
26CUB03520**

Superior Court of the State of
California, for the county of
KERN
1215 TRUXTUN AVE,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93301
KERN COUNTY SUPERIOR
COURT - CIVIL DIVISION
PETITION OF: **KAYLEEN MARIE
TELLEZ**
FOR CHANGE OF NAME
TO ALL INTERESTED
PERSONS:
Petitioner: **KAYLEEN MARIE TELLEZ**
Filed a petition with this court
for a decree changing names as
follows:
Present name
KAYLEEN MARIE TELLEZ
Proposed name

KAYLEEN MARIE BELLE JACKSON
THE COURT ORDERS: that all
persons interested in this matter
appear before this court at the
hearing indicated below to show
cause, if any, why the petition
for change of name should
not be granted. Any person
objecting to the name changes
described above must file a
written objection that includes
the reasons for the objection at
least two court days before the
matter is scheduled to be heard
and must appear at the hearing
to show cause why the petition
should not be granted. If no
written objection is timely filed,
the court may grant the petition
without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date: November 24, 2026
Time: 8:30 am
Dept: L
Room:
The address of the court is:
same as noted above
A copy of this Order to Show
Cause must be published at
least once a week for four
successive weeks before the
date set for hearing on the
petition in a newspaper of
general circulation, printed
in this county BAKERSFIELD

NEWS OBSERVER
Date: September 22, 2026
Gina M. Cervantes,
Judicial Officer
By: Monique Silva,
Deputy Clerk
Petitioner:
KAYLEEN MARIE TELLEZ
12519 VALENTANO AVE,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93312
(928) 350-0605

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
FILE NO: 2026-B5223
Doing business as:
ZANI'S at 4601 CHALET ST,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
Mailing address: 4601 CHALET
ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
HSZ11313 INC at 4601 CHALET
ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93313
State of incorp. or org.: CA
The business is conducted by:
Corporation
SIGNED: **SUKHMAN GREWAL,**
President
The registrant commenced to

transact business under the
fictitious business name or
names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County
on: 08/25/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: D HINOJOSA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
08/25/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**

**PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
FILE NO: 2026-B5701
FILE NO: 2026-B5702
FILE NO: 2026-B5703
Doing business as:
FROST MEDIA / FROSTSPORTSMEDIA
/ **FROSTMEDIASERVICES** at 16041
SCREAMING EAGLE AVE,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314,
KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 16041
SCREAMING EAGLE AVE,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
TYLER JOSEPH FROST at 16041
SCREAMING EAGLE AVE,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93314
The business is conducted by:
Individual
SIGNED: **TYLER JOSEPH FROST**
The registrant commenced
to transact business under
the fictitious business name
or names listed above on:
01/14/2025
This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County
on: 09/17/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk

By: M SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
09/17/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
FILE NO: 2026-B5395
Doing business as:

M AND M SERVICES at 723 BUTTE
ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305,
KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 515
TEAKWOOD DRIVE,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93308
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
MICHAEL GARCIA at 723 BUTTE
ST, BAKERSFIELD, CA 93305
The business is conducted by:
Individual
SIGNED: **MICHAEL GARCIA**
The registrant commenced to
transact business under the
fictitious business name or
names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County
on: 09/02/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: J PADILLA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
09/02/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21,
2026**

or names listed above on:
08/18/2026
This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County
on: 08/24/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M. Hernandez,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
08/24/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
FILE NO: 2026-B5767
Doing business as:
J1 SMOG CHECK at 730
E CALIFORNIA AVE,
BAKERSFIELD, CA 93307,
KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 27510 PINE
ST, TAFT, CA 93268
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
YURIANA CORTES RUIZ at 27510
PINE ST, TAFT, CA 93268
The business is conducted by:
Individual
SIGNED: **YURIANA CORTES RUIZ**
The registrant commenced to
transact business under the
fictitious business name or
names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County
on: 09/21/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
09/21/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
FILE NO: 2026-B5845
FILE NO: 2026-B5846
FILE NO: 2026-B5847
FILE NO: 2026-B5848
FILE NO: 2026-B5849
Doing business as:
**THE ARK MINISTRY / WARSHIP
WORKOUT / THE ARK / ARK
MINISTRY / THE ARK MINISTRY
REVIVAL CENTER** at 10315 POLO
GLEN DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA
93312, KERN
Mailing address: 10315 POLO
GLEN DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA
93312
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
LAURA KATE SMITH at 10315 POLO
GLEN DR., BAKERSFIELD, CA
93312
The business is conducted by:
Individual
SIGNED: **LAURA KATE SMITH**
The registrant commenced to
transact business under the
fictitious business name or
names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County
on: 09/24/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: M SALES,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
09/24/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
FILE NO: 2026-B5756
Doing business as:
**SPROUTS AND BASILS PHO
RESTAURANT** at 428 HIGH ST
SUITE H, DELANO, CA 93215,
KERN COUNTY
Mailing address: 327 BALBOA
DR, DELANO, CA 93215
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
ROXANNE PATTON CLAVERIA at
327 BALBOA DR, DELANO, CA
93215
The business is conducted by:
Individual
SIGNED: **ROXANNE PATTON
CLAVERIA**
The registrant commenced to
transact business under the
fictitious business name or
names listed above on: N/A
This statement filed with the
County Clerk of Kern County
on: 09/21/2026
AIMEE X. ESPINOZA
County Clerk
By: S CEJA,
Deputy
This fictitious Business Name
Statement expires five years
from the date it was filed in
the County Clerk's Office. A
new fictitious business name
statement must be filed before
that time. The filing of this
statement does not of itself
authorize the use in this state
of a fictitious business name in
violation of the rights of another
to a trademark or trade name
under federal, state, or common
law (see section 14411 ET SEQ.,
business and professions code).
I declare that all information
in this Statement is true and
correct. (A) Registrant who
declares as true information
which he or she knows to be
false, is guilty of a crime
This statement expires on:
09/21/2031

**BAKERSFIELD
NEWS OBSERVER**
**PUB: Sep 30, Oct 7, 14, 21,
2026**

**FICTITIOUS BUSINESS
NAME STATEMENT**
FILE NO: 2026-B5209
FILE NO: 2026-B5210
FILE NO: 2026-B5211
FILE NO: 2026-B5212
FILE NO: 2026-B5213
FILE NO: 2026-B5214
Doing business as:
**Hronis Ranch / Sierra Vista /
Grapeco / Hronis Vineyards / Hronis
Farms / Hronis** at 10443 Hronis
Rd., Delano, CA 93215, Kern
County
Mailing address: 10443 Hronis
Rd., Delano, CA 93215
County: Kern
Full name of registrant(s):
Ag Funding SC III LLC at 5465 Mills
Civic Parkway, Suite 201, West
Des Moines, IA 50266
State of incorp. or org.: DE
The business is conducted by:
Limited Liability Company
SIGNED: **Mark A. Smith, Secretary**
The registrant commenced
to transact business under
the fictitious business name



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By Bo Tefu
California Black Media

New Protections for Ticket Buyers: Gov. Newsom Signs Assemblymember Isaac Bryan’s Bill

Gov. Gavin Newsom signed a bill on Sept. 27 authored by Assemblymember Isaac Bryan (D-Ladera Heights). The legislation strengthens consumer protections for Californians purchasing tickets to concerts, sporting events and other live entertainment.

Assembly Bill 1349 expands state regulation of original ticket sellers, resellers and online resale marketplaces. The law targets deceptive sales practices, ticket-buying software and speculative listings — tickets advertised for sale by sellers who do not possess them or have authorization to sell them.

“Buying a ticket shouldn’t come with hidden risks or unfair practices,” Newsom wrote on social media after signing the measure.

Under AB 1349, ticket sellers are prohibited from listing tickets before they have been officially released unless they have authorization or a legally enforceable right to receive them. Online marketplaces must also take reasonable steps to prevent speculative ticket sales on their platforms.

The law prohibits sellers from using bots, multiple accounts, email addresses or internet protocol addresses to circumvent ticket limits, presale restrictions, electronic queues and other controls. It also bans websites and advertisements designed to mislead buyers into believing they are purchasing tickets from an authorized seller, venue or event organizer.

Sellers who violate certain provisions and fail to provide a promised ticket may be held liable for twice the ticket’s contracted price. Buyers may also recover nonrefundable expenses incurred while attempting to attend an event, along with reasonable attorney’s fees and court costs.

Pastor Tecoy Porter Sr., president of the National Action Network’s Sacramento chapter, said the law establishes needed accountability.

“Buying a ticket to a concert or show shouldn’t mean entering a marketplace where the rules are stacked against you. This year, we worked with a coalition of consumers, civil rights advocates, community groups, and businesses to make AB 1349 stronger. Consumers deserve enforceable rules that protect them. We thank Assemblymember Bryan for his leadership, and we will keep working to make ticketing fair for every Californian.”

Jose L. Barrera, national vice president for the Far West Region of the League of United Latin American Citizens, also praised the measure.

“Californian families deserve certain protections when they buy tickets. Assemblymember Bryan listened to communities across California and delivered a bill that puts fans first. We thank him and Governor Newsom for making it law.”

Sen. Weber Pierson Hosts San Diego Conversation on Black Women’s Health

State Sen. Akilah Weber Pierson (D-San Diego) brought health care providers and community members together Sept. 21 for a conversation about menopause and the disproportionate chronic disease risks facing Black women.

Weber Pierson, a board-certified OB/GYN and chair of the California Senate Health Committee, co-hosted the event with the Partnership to Fight Chronic Disease (PFCDD) at the Southeastern Live Well Center in San Diego. The discussion focused on the experiences of Black women during perimenopause and menopause, including differences in symptoms, diagnosis, treatment, and access to culturally responsive care.

The event, titled “Thriving Through the Change: Menopause, Chronic Disease Risk, and Black Women’s Health,” examined how menopause can intersect with conditions including hypertension, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and osteoporosis. Speakers also discussed how disrupted sleep, mood changes, and changes in body composition can affect disease prevention and management during midlife.

The conversation highlighted calls for earlier screening, coordinated care, informed treatment decisions, and research that better reflects the experiences of Black women.

“Black women deserve to have their menopause symptoms heard, understood, and treated with the same urgency afforded to every patient,” Weber Pierson said. “By centering Black women’s lived experiences and recognizing how menopause can interact with chronic conditions, we can advance policies and care models that support healthier lives through midlife and beyond.”

PFCDD Chair Ken Thorpe said menopause has been overlooked in research, clinical discussions,

and public policy, adding that the organization wants to connect menopause care with chronic disease prevention and management.

The event also featured physicians Latisa S. Carson and Shereen Binno, who discussed the importance of competent, compassionate care and ensuring Black women are included in broader conversations about women’s health in midlife.

Weber Pierson, a Democrat representing the 39th Senate District, has made health care access and health disparities part of her legislative work. She also chairs the California Legislative Black Caucus (CLBC) and the Senate Select Committee on Social Determinants of Health.

The Sept. 21 event was promoted as an opportunity for Black women to better understand the menopausal transition, chronic disease risks, and ways to advocate for their health.

Court Orders Consumer Protection Agency Funded, Handing Bonta-Led Coalition a Win

A federal judge has ordered the acting director of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to request funding from the Federal Reserve, handing California Attorney General Rob Bonta and a coalition of 22 attorneys general a major victory in their lawsuit to keep the consumer watchdog operating.

The U.S. District Court for the District of Oregon ruled that former acting CFPB Director Russell Vought’s refusal to seek funding for the agency was unlawful and violated the U.S. Constitution’s separation of powers.

The order requires current acting Director Mark Paoletta to request the money necessary for the bureau to perform its congressionally mandated duties. Paoletta became acting director Aug. 1.

The ruling largely resolves the lawsuit Bonta and the multistate coalition filed in December 2025, although the decision may be appealed.

“Today, we celebrate a giant win for consumers,” Bonta said. “A court has declared that the federal government’s attempt to refuse to fund the CFPB — the agency responsible for protecting consumers from unfair, deceptive, and abusive acts by Big Corporations — is an illegal, unconstitutional, and partisan attempt to starve the CFPB of lawful funding.”

Congress created the CFPB in response to the 2008 financial crisis. The agency regulates consumer financial products and investigates complaints involving banks, lenders, debt collectors and credit-reporting companies. It also works with state attorneys general and banking regulators on consumer-protection enforcement.

In November 2025, the CFPB announced that it would not request additional money from the Federal Reserve. The decision relied on a U.S. Department of Justice analysis asserting that the bureau could not legally draw funds while the Federal Reserve was operating at a loss.

The attorneys general argued that the funding cutoff would prevent the CFPB from carrying out legally required responsibilities, including maintaining its consumer complaint database.

The Trump administration had also suspended work across the agency, dismissed probationary employees and attempted to send layoff notices to 90% of its workforce. Courts blocked the planned mass layoffs.

Bonta said the latest ruling ensures the agency can continue protecting consumers, particularly as families contend with rising costs.

Critics and Advocates Slam Newsom for Vetoing Abortion Bill

Gov. Gavin Newsom is facing criticism from reproductive rights advocates over his veto of legislation that would have barred California from extraditing people to other states for criminal prosecution over legally protected abortion and gender-affirming care.

Newsom vetoed Assembly Bill (AB) 2164, also known as the Care Without Fear Act, on Sept. 20. The bill, authored by Assemblymember Rebecca Bauer-Kahan (D-Orinda), would have strengthened California’s shield laws by prohibiting extradition involving providers, patients, and others accused of offenses related to legally protected care. The governor listed AB 2164 among the bills he vetoed in his Sept. 20 legislative update.

Reproductive Freedom for All, which supported the legislation, called the veto a missed opportunity to provide longer-term protections for abortion providers.

“California cannot call itself a safe haven for reproductive freedom while leaving abortion providers just one election away from extradition,” said Pavitra Abraham, the organization’s director of state campaigns.

The group’s president and CEO, Mini Timmaraju, also criticized the decision, saying

California should protect providers from being sent to other states to face criminal charges for care that is legal in California.

Newsom has defended California’s existing shield laws but argued that decisions involving extradition should remain within the governor’s executive authority rather than be dictated by the Legislature.

In his veto message, Newsom said he was “troubled by the precedent” of an outgoing administration and Legislature limiting the authority of a future governor based on their shared policy preferences.

The dispute follows a January case involving a California doctor whom Louisiana authorities sought to extradite over allegations related to the provision of abortion medication. Newsom rejected the request and said California would not allow other states to punish doctors for providing reproductive health care.

Supporters of AB 2164 argued that the protections should be written into state law because executive orders can be changed or revoked by future governors. Amanda Barrow, a senior staff attorney at the UCLA Law Center on Reproductive Health, Law, and Policy, said legislative protections can provide greater stability when executive leadership changes.

The veto leaves California’s existing shield-law protections in place but rejects the additional limits on gubernatorial extradition authority proposed by AB 2164.

The measure was among several reproductive health bills still awaiting action from Newsom this legislative session, according to Reproductive Freedom for All, including proposals concerning medication abortion access at community colleges and expanding who can provide abortion care.

Sec. of State Weber, State Controller Malia Cohen, and Others to Appear at Political Town Hall on Oct. 3

California State Controller Malia Cohen is scheduled to appear at a political town hall and ballot forum in Los Angeles on Oct. 3, joining other prominent Black California political leaders for a discussion about issues facing voters ahead of the November election.

The event, “California Voices: A Political Town Hall & Ballot Forum,” will feature Cohen, Los Angeles Mayor Karen Bass, California Secretary of State Shirley Weber, and Los Angeles City Attorney candidate John McKinney.

The lineup brings together Black leaders from state and local government and a candidate for elected office. Cohen serves as California’s state controller, Weber is the state’s secretary of state, Bass is the mayor of Los Angeles, and McKinney is running for Los Angeles city attorney.

Cohen announced her participation in a social media post, describing the forum as an opportunity to discuss issues affecting Californians and the stakes of the upcoming election.

“I’ll be joining California Voices: A Political Town Hall & Ballot Forum for an important conversation about the issues facing Californians and what’s at stake this election season,” Cohen said.

Cohen is scheduled to appear on stage at 11:40 a.m. at SEED LA School. The event is being hosted by KBLA Talk 1580 and the Community Voter Education Project and is free to attend.

Bass, Weber, and McKinney each bring different perspectives to the forum. Bass has served as Los Angeles mayor since 2022 after previously serving in Congress and as speaker of the California Assembly. Weber, a former state legislator, became California secretary of state in 2021 and is responsible for overseeing elections statewide. McKinney is seeking the Los Angeles city attorney position.

The forum comes about a month before the Nov. 3 general election, when California voters will consider statewide and local races, along with ballot measures covering issues including housing, taxes, campaign finance, and elections.

The event is part of an effort to provide voters with an opportunity to hear from political leaders and discuss issues affecting California communities ahead of the election.

Attorney Gen. Bonta Applauds State High Court Decision on Sheriff’s Ballot Seizures

California Attorney General Rob Bonta on Sept. 24, applauded the California Supreme Court rulings affirming his authority to supervise county sheriffs and requiring Riverside County Sheriff Chad Bianco to comply with his directives following the seizure of hundreds of thousands of voted ballots.

The rulings in two companion cases, Bonta v. Bianco and Cervantes v. Bianco, stem from Bianco’s criminal investigation into the November 2025 special election in Riverside County.

In February, Bianco obtained search warrants to

seize election materials as part of the investigation. Bonta subsequently directed the sheriff to pause the investigation, preserve evidence, and provide information to his office for review. According to Bonta’s office, Bianco continued the investigation and seized roughly 650,000 voted ballots from the Riverside County Registrar of Voters.

In Bonta v. Bianco, the Supreme Court affirmed the attorney general’s broad constitutional and statutory authority to supervise county sheriffs and ordered Bianco to comply with Bonta’s directives.

“Today’s rulings bring important clarity for our constitutional system in California,” Bonta said. “I’m grateful that our State Supreme Court reaffirmed my authority as Attorney General to supervise county sheriffs.”

In Cervantes v. Bianco, Riverside voters challenged the seizure of the ballots. The Supreme Court reaffirmed that voted ballots must remain in the custody of elections officials, including during a criminal investigation, to protect them from alteration, tampering or improper interference.

Bonta said the decision establishes that election fraud investigations can proceed without allowing criminal investigative tools to interfere with election administration.

“Election fraud can and should be investigated,” Bonta said. “But misuse of criminal investigative tools — without any evidence that a crime was committed — needlessly undermines trust in our elections system and in law enforcement.”

The attorney general’s office said Bianco has not provided evidence of criminal misconduct in the 2025 election.

The rulings also come after Gov. Gavin Newsom signed Senate Bill 1418 on Sept. 19. The urgency law expands protections under Elections Code Section 15551 to cover not only voted ballots but other election-related materials and equipment. The law took effect immediately upon signing.

In a letter to the Supreme Court, Bonta said the expanded law could potentially apply to other materials seized by Bianco. He suggested the court could limit its ruling in Cervantes to ordering the return of the ballots while his office uses its supervisory authority to address other seized materials.

Bonta encouraged Californians to vote early in the Nov. 3 midterm election, saying the rulings provide greater protection for the custody of voted ballots.

Oakland Is Considering Bringing an HBCU to the Bay Area

Oakland leaders are exploring plans to bring a historically Black college or university to the city, an initiative supporters say could expand educational opportunities and strengthen the Bay Area’s Black community.

The Oakland HBCU initiative, launched last year as a fiscally sponsored project of the Oakland Fund, remains in the early planning stages. A volunteer task force that includes Mayor Barbara Lee and representatives from the business, higher education, civic and philanthropic sectors is leading the effort, according to The Oaklandside.

The task force commissioned a feasibility study to examine the potential economic impact of an HBCU campus and identify industries positioned for growth in Oakland. The study has identified technology, artificial intelligence, entrepreneurship, life sciences, transportation and logistics as possible areas of academic focus.

Kim Thompson, a task force member, said creating an HBCU presence in Oakland could help California retain students who leave the state to attend historically Black institutions elsewhere.

“That’s a big brain drain and loss of students who could be staying here and gaining access to high-wage STEM careers that the Bay Area has to offer,” Thompson told The Oaklandside. “There’s a lot of students we think could benefit from the culturally affirming education that an HBCU could provide.”

Options under consideration include establishing a satellite campus for one institution, creating a hub where several HBCUs could offer classes or partnering with the Peralta Community College District to provide a pathway to a four-year HBCU degree.

The group has toured the former Holy Names University campus and potential downtown Oakland locations. Howard University previously expressed interest and conducted a site visit. Thompson said, although leadership changes at the Washington-based university have slowed discussions.

Lee said an HBCU could also help stabilize Oakland’s shrinking Black population.

“Here in Oakland, gentrification, redlining and systemic discrimination has been a driver of bringing our population down,” Lee told The Oaklandside. “This would give some stability in many ways to the Black population and for everyone in Oakland to see that we still care about the Black community and Black students.”

The task force is expected to release its feasibility study before moving forward with prospective schools and possible locations.

Local

Surrounded by Crowns: A Bakersfield Woman Traces a Family Ancestry from Lagos to the American South

By Cecil Egbele
Contributing Writer | California Local News Fellow
For Adeyinka Glover, the meaning of her name has always been more than a definition.

“Surrounded by crowns.”
Glover, a Bakersfield attorney and first-generation Nigerian American, grew up knowing that her father was Nigerian, that he came to the United States from Lagos, that Yoruba was spoken around her and that Nigerian food was part of her family’s dinner table.

But for more than a decade, she has been trying to understand who came before her, and she chose to begin with two women she never met: her grandmothers.

Glover was named “Adeyinka” after her maternal and paternal grandmothers, both of whom died before she was born. As a child, she wondered who they were, why her parents wanted their names carried forward, and whether she could somehow live up to the women whose names she inherited.

“I was always curious about who I was named after,” she said. “Why were my parents interested in sharing their names with me?”

That question eventually became a genealogy project that has taken her from family records in the United States to archives at the University of Lagos and, she says, deep into the history of Lagos royalty.

Glover said her journey is not the typical story of an African American trying to discover an African identity obscured by slavery and generations of missing records. She already knew that.

She knew she was Nigerian. She knew she was Black American. What she didn’t know was how far back the stories on both sides of her family could take her.

Glover recalled starting with the basic steps: asking her father for records and reaching out to aunts who supplied genealogy charts. As a child, her father had told her one of her great-grandmothers was a princess. She said her research has since traced his line to the royal family of Lagos, and further back to the Benin Kingdom.

In 2017, she traveled to Nigeria for the first time, joining a study abroad trip with San Diego State students. She seized the opportunity to



Adeyinka Glover points to Africa on the world map on her living room wall (Photo Credit: Cecil Egbele)

investigate the family history she had been piecing together from thousands of miles away. She met with relatives in person for the first time. At the University of Lagos library, she found and copied pages from a book titled Inquiry into the Obaship of Lagos. Fittingly for a lawyer, she said it reads like a trial transcript, an argument over who should be in line to be Oba, or king. She photographed and copied material from the university library, adding another layer of documentary evidence to the family history she had been assembling.

Her research led her to a startling family connection.

Glover said her research made her believe she descends from one of the earliest Obas of Lagos, Oba Ado, and that the family line connects Lagos to the Benin Kingdom through the Oba’s mother. For now, she said she has traced 18 generations on her father’s side.

That history became more tangible when she encountered artifacts she believes were connected to her ancestors at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art.

She remembered trying to stay present as she stood before them.

“I knew I had a responsibility to document,” she said. “I Imagined they were items that my

ancestors wore,” she said. “It was amazing.”

Glover said the experience changed how she thinks about the “crown” embedded in her own name. She said she always expressed herself through her hair, styling it in braids, twists, and other designs. She sees hair itself as a kind of crown.

“I have not yet fulfilled my name,” she said. “But I’m on the path.”

That path runs in two directions.
While investigating her father’s Nigerian ancestry, Glover has also been reconstructing her mother’s African American family history, piecing together census records, obituaries, certificates, and fragments left behind by earlier generations. She has traced relatives through Oklahoma, Louisiana, Tennessee, and South Carolina, finding records reaching into the 1800s. One delayed birth certificate for an ancestor was supported by a family Bible.

Now she wants to find that Bible to understand what part it plays in her search.

She said she doesn’t believe that Black Americans cannot trace their roots.

“One of the things that I am sometimes bothered by is the narrative that sometimes people say it’s impossible,” she said, “and I wholeheartedly disagree.”

It isn’t easy, she admits, and she has hit roadblocks. She moves between the two sides of her family depending on where she feels called. She also expects to travel to the Southern states where her ancestors lived, to find records she can’t reach online.

She pointed to similarities in traditions from both of her lineages, like gathering, respecting elders, and preserving family history. “I’m wholly Nigerian,” she said. “I’m wholly Black. I’m fully Black American. All of those identities make me who I am.”

What comes next

Glover said she plans to revisit Lagos and go to Benin City for a documentary she is planning. She also wants to go to Bahia, Brazil, where some of her ancestors traveled, and then to the British Museum, where she believes there are artifacts linked to her ancestry.



Adeyinka Glover wears her braids styled into coiled knots at her Bakersfield home. Glover, whose first name means “surrounded by crowns,” said her hair is her favorite canvas and that she has styled it herself since before she was 10 (Photo Credit: Cecil Egbele)

“I see it more so as a journey as opposed to a destination,” she said. “I am open to whatever my ancestors may want to reveal to me along the way.”

But perhaps her most important destination is still generations away.

“I really want to be able to pass what I gather together for future generations,” she said, “so that if they want to pick up the research, they’re not starting where I started.”

For anyone curious about tracing their own ancestors, she said, “by all means, I’m happy to share what I know.”

The large wooden world map in her Bakersfield home points to quests she has already covered, and pieces of her family puzzle still spread across continents.



Adeyinka Glover looks at the world map on her living room wall, which she uses to plan her travels (Photo Credit: Cecil Egbele)



Adeyinka Glover views beaded crowns she believes her ancestors wore, during a visit to the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (Photo Courtesy of ‘yinkaglo’ via YouTube)

Listening as a Lifeline: A Doula’s Witness to Black Maternal Health

By Antoinette Stewart-Eneh
Special to California Black Media Partners

Note: Client A, B & C, names are withheld for privacy; these accounts reflect my recollections as their Doula.

Client A rocked her hips on a birthing ball, surrounded by pale wood and warm textiles in a softly lit Scandinavian-style office. I was her doula through a Southern California maternal health company combining nurse-led care, technology, and wraparound support.

She was a healthy Black woman in her thirties. Her baby girl was doing well; her partner took notes as we discussed labor and advocacy.

Then we turned to their chosen hospital. I knew it well—and remembered a phrase from another client’s experience: “Policy of Sovereignty.”

Client B had been told she needed a repeat cesarean as a precaution, though the reasoning was unclear. Her obstetrician, who performed her first cesarean two years earlier, had assured

her throughout pregnancy that she was healthy, healed, and ready for a vaginal birth. We asked staff to review her chart, consult her obstetrician, and reconsider immediate surgery. Instead, they invoked the “Policy of Sovereignty.”

The physician on duty, we were told, had final authority, regardless of her established care plan. I asked whether an ultrasound or reassessing the baby’s position could offer clarity. Cesareans can be lifesaving. But were Client B’s history, informed consent, and circumstances guiding this decision—or was routine overriding individualized care? We kept asking for her obstetrician. Beneath every request was a deeper question: Was she being heard?

The Numbers Behind the Stories

Statistics arrive in clean columns. The experiences behind them do not.

Maternal mortality and pregnancy-related mortality use different time frames and methods and are not interchangeable. Finalized 2024 CDC data recorded 649 maternal deaths nationally. The

overall rate was 17.9 deaths per 100,000 live births, but for non-Hispanic Black women it was 44.8, compared with 14.2 for White women and 12.1 for Hispanic women.

In California, Black birthing people experienced 56.5 pregnancy-related deaths per 100,000 live births during 2020–2022—3.8 times the White rate and four times the Asian rate.

As a doula serving Los Angeles and San Bernardino Counties, I see faces behind those numbers. I remember concerns raised softly, then firmly, then desperately. I am tired of watching Black families enter spaces meant to protect them, only to discover they must defend themselves while laboring, bleeding, trembling, or recovering.

Returning to Client A

Client A’s labor stretched nearly 48 hours. As her condition worsened, she, her partner, and I asked whether a cesarean should happen sooner. A provider questioned my place as a doula, then said she was next.

Six more hours passed.

She entered surgery visibly ill with a serious uterine infection, her baby malpositioned and stuck. Her partner later recalled the provider saying, “This baby would never have made it through the birth canal.”

Those words landed like a blow. Our urgency had been treated as ignorance. With Client B, we questioned why surgery was inevitable. With Client A, why it was delayed. Doula advocacy is not about one kind of birth. It is about informed consent, individualized care, and timely action. Hospital routine should never outweigh the person carrying the risk.

Survival Cannot Be the Standard

The Black maternal health crisis includes unequal care, untreated conditions, racial bias, delayed referrals, poor communication, and inadequate postpartum support. It is about birth plans respected only until a hospital becomes less busy and postpartum care that asks whether a mother survived, not whether she has what she needs to recover.

Survival cannot be the standard. Technology can support care, but it cannot replace human connection. An algorithm cannot detect fear in a patient’s eyes, and a mission statement alone cannot ensure adequate staffing or culturally responsive care.

The Story of Client C

Before I arrived, I heard the chaos through Client C’s phone. Staff struggled to locate her baby’s heartbeat on an external monitor as her fear and blood pressure rose. I pleaded for an internal electrode before surgery.

“There’s not enough time,” a nurse said.

“I would like to wait for my doula,” Client C called out.

But she was medicated, hurried through consent, and wheeled away while I listened.



Antoinette Stewart-Eneh

In the operating room, after a shift change, another nurse placed an internal electrode and said, “The previous monitor wasn’t working.”

No one responded.

According to her father, the obstetrician avoided eye contact: “We need to move forward.”

Surgery may still have been necessary; that was not mine to determine. But if faulty equipment helped create the emergency, the family deserved acknowledgment and explanation—not silence. No family should have to wonder whether major surgery followed an unavoidable crisis or a machine failure no one recognized in time.

From Prevention to Accountability

After supporting nearly 100 families, I have learned that danger often begins before admission. I have urged clients to seek care—and heard why they feared returning: dismissed pain, harsh words, shame for asking questions.

Care cannot be holistic where Black families do not feel safe enough to speak or return. Representation matters, but providers of color cannot repair inequity alone. They need adequate staffing, mentorship, culturally responsive training, reliable equipment, and colleagues that are reflective of all the aforementioned. It’s not the Black providers’ job to care for just the Black patients, everyone should have the same goal.

The Omnibus Act, California’s Medi-Cal doula benefit, the Transforming Maternal Health Model and the Perinatal Equity Initiative require more than promises; they need sustained funding, reliable reimbursement and accountable implementation.

Birth should be sacred. Yet too many Black birthing people arrive carrying the burden of proving their pain is real. A doula can listen, educate, comfort, and advocate—but cannot repair a system that refuses to listen. The true measure of progress is what happens when a Black birthing person says, “Something is wrong.”

Are they believed? When equipment fails, is that failure acknowledged? Do families leave not merely alive, but safe, respected, supported, and whole?

Until those answers are consistently yes, California’s maternal health success story remains unfinished.

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