

Kalra Capitol Report



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Community Comes Together to Celebrate African American History Month

February marks African American History Month and to honor the legacy and contributions of our African American community, Assemblymember Kalra hosted a virtual celebration where four distinguished community members were honored for their service.

Leader in Business Award: Nirvana Soul is a San Jose-based coffee company bringing exciting flavor, bold inspiration, and undeniable joy to Silicon Valley and beyond. Founded by sisters and best friends, Jeronica Macey and Be'Anka Ashaolu, Nirvana Soul's mission is to bring people together using the power of coffee and tea. Since they were little girls, coffee has held a special, calming place in their hearts. Jeronica and Be'Anka have dreamt of creating a space that feeds their souls and makes people happy. Nirvana Soul is focused on delivering you the greatest possible experience, while making San Jose one of the most exceptional places to indulge.



Leader in Advocacy Award: Sabrina-Moné Lamontagne is the Operations and Finance Manager at the African American Community Service Agency (AACSA). She is passionate about serving her community and is a member of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women - Silicon Valley chapter and currently serves as its 2nd Vice President, Finance and Fund Development, and chairs its Public Policy and Fund Development Committees. She also

serves on the National Economic Empowerment Committee of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women. Sabrina currently serves as the Treasurer of the Afro-Umoja Political Representation in Silicon Valley (Afro-UPRIS) Democratic Club.

(continued on pg. 3)

Message from Assemblymember Ash Kalra

The deadline for bill submittals passed in February, so the Legislature is now in full swing as we work to address various issues affecting Californians. From pandemic recovery, support for small businesses and working families, addressing rising fuel costs, to climate change, you can expect a busy legislative season for both the Assembly and the Senate.

These are some of the bills I have introduced this year:

- **AB1885 - Veterinarian Recommendation and Cannabis for Animal-Use:** This bill would allow veterinarians to recommend the use of cannabis on an animal patient for potential therapeutic effect or health supplementation purposes.
- **AB 1979 - California Deforestation-Free Procurement Act:** This bill would require state procurement contracts comprised of forest-risk commodities to certify that their operations and supply chains do not contribute to tropical deforestation.
- **AB 2114 - California Pocket Forests Initiative:** This bill would offer communities access to healthy, self-sustaining natural green areas by forming the California Pocket Forest Initiative, a program that would authorize CAL FIRE to provide grants for pocket forests to public and nonprofit entities.
- **AB 2208 - Mercury Lamp Pollution Prevention Act:** This bill would phase out fluorescent lamps in general lighting applications by banning the sale of compact fluorescent lamps starting on January 1, 2024, and the sale of linear fluorescent lamps starting on January 1, 2025.
- **AB 2300 - CalWORKs and CalFresh Employment Requirement Exemptions:** This bill would protect CalWORKs and CalFresh recipients' ability to exercise their workers' rights by expanding good cause welfare-to-work exemptions and childcare-related welfare-to-work exemptions.
- **AB 2441 - Public Transit Workers:** This would require public transit employers to notify transit unions of their intention to procure or deploy new technologies for public transit services, including autonomous transit vehicles, at least one year prior.
- **AB 2504 - Living Organ Donor Reimbursement Act:** This bill would reduce financial barriers for living organ donors by establishing the Living Donor Reimbursement Program to allow donors to recoup up to \$10,000 of expenses they incurred for the costs associated with organ donation.
- **AB 2524 - Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA): Employee Relations:** This bill would give employee organizations at Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) the opportunity to move under the jurisdiction of the Public Employment Relations Board (PERB) for the resolution of unfair labor practice (ULP) complaints.
- **AB 2624 - Course Material Transparency:** this bill would close price transparency gaps by requiring the California State Universities and California Community Colleges, and encouraging the University of California, to display estimated course materials for 75% of courses offered on the online course schedule platform.
- **AB 2662 - Department of Fair Employment and Housing:** This bill would clarify the functions and duties of the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) as a state civil rights agency acting in the public interest to protect California residents from discrimination and unlawful practices in employment, housing, and public accommodations and from hate crimes and human trafficking.
- **AB 2763 - Job Order Contracting for VTA:** This bill would authorize the Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority (VTA) to use job order contracting (JOC) for routine work that may span over a two-year contract.
- **AB 2844 - Cannabis Catering License:** would authorize the Department of Cannabis Control (DCC) to issue cannabis catering licenses to allow licensees to serve cannabis or cannabis products at private events approved by a local jurisdiction.
- **AB 2926 - Free Artists from Industry Restrictions (FAIR) ACT:** This bill would restore actors' and recording artists' ability to freely work by removing unfair restrictions from studio and label contracts.

If you would like to learn more about the bills I introduced, please contact my district office at (408) 277-1220, or my Capitol Office at (916) 319-2027. Thank you.

Sincerely,



African American History Month Celebration *(continued from pg. 1)*

Leader in Education Award: William Armaline is the founder of the Human Rights Minor Program, Director of the Human Rights Institute, and an Associate



Professor in the Department of Sociology and Interdisciplinary Social Sciences [SISS] at San José State University. His formal training and professional experience span sociology, education, and human rights. Dr. Armaline's interests, applied work, and scholarly publications address social problems as they relate to political economy, environmental sustainability, human rights, racism and anti-racist action, critical pedagogy, inequality and youth, mass incarceration, and drug policy reform.

Legacy Award: Ms. Ellen Rollins is the CEO of the National Association of

Juneteenth Lineage CA, Inc. She speaks on



national issues such as health care reform, anti-poverty reforms, and socio-economic justice. She is the curator of African & Black World Footsteps, for "A Sense Of Family" and the founder of MoonRaker World Trade Enterprises. Since 1989, Ms. Rollins is also very active with the labor community through SEIU Local 521 and SEIU 2015, advocating for California's long-term caregivers. She has previously served in many capacities and roles, including as a member of the In-Home Supportive Services Public Authority Advisory Board and Chair of the SEIU 521 People Working With Disabilities Caucus.

Congratulations to all our 2022 African American History Month honorees and thank you for your service!

Welcoming Spring by Celebrating the Festival of Colors

Holi is an ancient Indian tradition celebrated across the world to signify the triumph of good over evil, the power of love across borders, and the beginning of spring.



A week of sunshine and then suddenly, rain in the forecast on Saturday, March 19th, but that did not stop the hundreds of community members and dozens of elected officials from going out to all the celebrations to be painted in wonderful colors.

First, Assemblymember Kalra visited the Holi Celebration hosted by Festival of Globes (FOG) at Mission High School in Fremont. Following that event, he stopped by Discovery Meadows in downtown San José to the Holi



Celebration hosted by Federation of Indo-Americans (FIA). Both events had hundreds of visitors, dancing in the rain, throwing colorful (environmentally safe) powder in the air. There were also various vendors selling delicious Indian snacks and beverages. It was like the rain wasn't even happening! People were having so much fun and were covered head to toe like rainbows. It was a beautiful sight to see, and a great reminder how impactful it is to experience other cultures and traditions.

"As the first Indian American on the California State Legislature, I am proud to represent my culture and my family traditions," said Kalra. "Celebrating holidays such as Holi with my community is a great reminder of how diverse the Bay Area is, and why I am proud to call it my home."

A Message Regarding the Situation in Ukraine - Ash Kalra

On March 14th, I joined Assemblymember Ken Cooley in leading a letter to President Biden urging the need to ease U.S. entry for our Ukrainian refugees. We were honored to have nearly all of my Assembly colleagues sign on in support.

The heroism of Ukraine's people and of their President Volodymyr Zelenskyy has inspired us all, and as they continue to fight for their freedom, I believe we have a duty to stand with our Ukrainian ally and support them in any way we can, especially with a safe space to shelter with their loved ones.

In addition, I am grateful that earlier this month Governor Newsom signed an Executive Order directing state agencies and departments to ensure their contractors are complying with economic sanctions imposed in response to Russia's attacks on Ukraine. The order further requires state agencies and departments to direct all grantees and contractors with agreements valued at \$5 million or more to report their compliance with economic sanctions and on the steps they are taking in response to Russia's aggression in Ukraine.

Please [click here](#) to read the full text of the Executive Order.



New Americans Fellowship Policy and Power

The New Americans Fellowship (NAF) is a summer leadership program that offers **a stipend of up to \$10,000** Fellows will:

- Gain professional experience in government and research
- Advocate for community-driven policies & solutions affecting the diverse immigrant communities of Santa Clara County
- Develop social consciousness and promote equity through research projects

Deadline: March 31, 2022

Program runs from 06.06.22 - 08.12.22

Learn more & apply at scco.org/naf

Applicants must be:
DACA recipients, U or T nonimmigrant visa holders, VAWA recipients, have Temporary Protected Status, or have been granted asylum or refugee status in the U.S.

OIR
Office of Immigrant Relations

Home is here!

Let's Welcome a New Downtown Business, Con Azucar!



On February 26th, hundreds of people lined up around the block in anticipation of a new café in downtown San José, Con Azucar. Located at 101 E. Santa Clara Street just a couple blocks away from San José City Hall, this unique café filled the space of a once bustling Starbucks often visited by City Hall employees. But you can find a Starbucks anywhere! Con Azucar is one-of-a-kind and sells Latino-inspired beverages and food, such as concha sandwiches, torta de jamon, cafe con leche, and espresso con pana. In the near future, Con Azucar also plans on expanding their menu to include mimosas and iced coffee flights (multiple coffees? Sign me up!).

A ribbon cutting ceremony attended by community members and elected officials, including Assemblymember Kalra, took place on a beautiful Saturday, to welcome the new small business to San Jose. Especially with the pandemic, it is more important than ever to support our small businesses and ensure their success! Congratulations to Con Azucar and we look forward to your growth and success (and iced coffee flights).

IT PAYS TO FILE YOUR TAXES!

Claim the California
Earned Income Tax
Credit & Young Child
Tax Credit.

ITIN Filers Eligible!

How much money can I earn and still qualify for the California
Earned Income Tax Credit and Young Child Tax Credit?

What was your earned income for
2021?

\$30,000 or less

More than \$30,000

You may
qualify for
CalEITC

Not eligible
for CalEITC
or YCTC, but
possibly
federal EITC
and CTC

Did you make less than \$30,000 and also
have a child under the age of six?

YES

NO

You may
also qualify
for YCTC

Not eligible
for YCTC,
but possibly
federal EITC
and CTC

Not eligible for CalEITC
or YCTC?

If you earned less
than \$57,414, you
may be eligible for
the federal EITC.



Use our calculator
to find out how
much you could get
back on your tax
returns thanks to
CalEITC, YCTC, and
the federal EITC.

ftb.ca.gov/caleitc



California Home Insurance Survey

If you were dropped by your home insurer in recent years, or
your rates have gone up (or not) we want to hear from you.

www.uphelp.org/CAhomeSurvey

This survey is being conducted by the insurance consumer nonprofit
United Policyholders. We are collecting data on California home insurance
costs and availability. The data collected will help households and
communities find good insurance options in order to be prepared for and
rebound after disasters. Thank you for your participation.

Content Magazine Celebrates 10 Years in San Jose

On Thursday, March 5th, artists, musicians, creators, and enthusiasts alike gathered to celebrate Content Magazine's Ten Year Anniversary during the Content Pick-Up Party. Based in San Jose and founded by Daniel Garcia, Content Magazine is a local media platform that tells the stories of the astounding local creativity of Santa Clara County. Content Magazine believes in connecting with one another, elevating the local arts ecosystem by sharing stories, exploring neighborhoods, and engaging local businesses to the arts. Their avenues to share their stories include online, in print, and at their events, which includes the release pick-up parties when they release new issues. Magazine topics covered include: art & design, culture, fashion, food & drink, music & theater, poetry & prose, and tech.

Fun fact: Assemblymember Kalra was featured in Content Magazine in 2018.

"It's great to see our creative community come together and celebrate their successes, their experiences, and their stories, especially during the pandemic," said Kalra. "I wish Content Magazine the best of luck, and look forward to their many successes in the future."



IN-HOME SUPPORTIVE SERVICES PROVIDERS RECEIVE \$500 BONUS PAYMENTS

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) is issuing one-time \$500 bonus payments to roughly 550,000 In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) providers throughout California. The payments, which are already being distributed to IHSS providers, recognize these care providers for their critical efforts to help keep IHSS recipients safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. IHSS providers began receiving their payments automatically on January 20, 2022. Current IHSS providers who provided care to program recipients for a minimum of two months between March 2020 and March 2021 are eligible. A total of \$275 million in federal funds are set to be delivered through this effort. The funds were included in California's Home and Community-Based Services spending plan. IHSS providers who receive their regular payments through direct deposit will receive the \$500 within 2-3 business days of issuance. It can take up to 5-7 business days, or 10 calendar days, for providers who receive paper checks due to mail time. The IHSS program is considered an alternative to out-of-home care, such as nursing homes or board and care facilities. The types of services which can be authorized through IHSS are housecleaning, meal preparation, laundry, grocery shopping, and various personal care services. For more information, please visit <https://www.cdss.ca.gov/in-home-supportive-services>.

Vietnamese Lunar New Year Celebrations Safely and Loudly Return In-Person



Pink and golden blossoms, red envelopes, lion dance, and lively music kicked off Lunar New Year celebrations across the world in February. In Asian tradition, each lunar calendar year corresponds to one of twelve animals, with February 2022 as the Year of the Tiger. Lunar New Year is celebrated by various Asian countries, and for the Vietnamese community, the celebration is known as Tết.

This year, San Jose had various in-person events to welcome the new year, starting with the Cultural Tết and Human Rights Festival at History Park in Assembly District 27. There was also the Cultural Tết Festival in front of the Unify Event Center near Grand Century Mall, and the Vietnamese Flag Raising Ceremony at Viet Heritage Garden. In addition, many new businesses that were celebrating their grand opening paired their event with Lunar New Year to bring in a year of good fortune and prosperity. District 27 welcomed a new realty business, TE Real Estate Group, who hosted a Lunar New Year Celebration. Pacificwide Business Group Inc. also hosted a family-friendly event for Tết with live performances, prize giveaways, and entertainment.

Assemblymember Ash Kalra shared, "Lunar New Year and Tết signify a sense of renewal. I hope the Year of the Tiger will bless our community with good health, happiness, and prosperity."

Assemblymember Ash Kalra Invites You to the



AD 27 WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH CELEBRATION



Thursday, March 31, 2022
5:30 pm - 7:00 pm
Virtual Celebration

Please RSVP for more details -
Stacie Shih
(408) 277-1220
stacie.shih@asm.ca.gov



ASSEMBLYMEMBER

Ash Kalra

DISTRICT 27



APPLY TODAY

THE CALIFORNIA MORTGAGE RELIEF PROGRAM IS HERE



Visit camortgagerelief.org



Select "Apply Now"



Submit your application for review and processing



Check your email or application portal for status of your application

CaMortgageRelief.org

Mortgage Relief for CA Homeowners

The United States Department of the Treasury has approved California's plan to provide \$1 billion in mortgage relief, providing help to as many as 40,000 struggling homeowners.

The program will help homeowners make past due housing payments. Visit camortgagerelief.org for more information and to see who qualifies.



Cal OES
GOVERNOR'S OFFICE
OF EMERGENCY SERVICES

A Message from Cal OES

Cal OES is encouraging nonprofit organizations to prepare for the release of the FY 2022 Nonprofit Security Grant Program (NSGP), Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) by the Department of Homeland Security/Federal Emergency Management Agency.

For more information, please visit:

<https://www.caloes.ca.gov/GrantsManagementSite/Documents/GMM%202022-04%20FY%202022%20NSGP%20Preparation.pdf>

The NSGP provides funding support through a competitive process for facility hardening and other security enhancements to nonprofit organizations at high risk of a terrorist attack and promotes emergency preparedness coordination and collaboration between public and private community representatives, as well as state, local, tribal, and territorial governments.

Meet a New Friend at the San José Animal Care Center, and Make a Best Friend for Life!



March Feature: Buttons - ID#A1247849 & Bobbins ID#A1247848

Buttons is a male, brown and tan Guinea pig, and Bobbins is a male, tricolor Guinea pig. Both ages are unknown and have been at the shelter since February 28, 2022.

Buttons and Bobbins are a bonded pair and would love it if they could be adopted together! Guinea pigs are social, herd animals that need the companionship of other piggies and these two boys are already in a bromance! They should be kept in a minimum of 8 square feet of indoor living space!

For adoption inquiries and to schedule an appointment to

meet Buttons and Bobbins, please contact shelter rabbit volunteer, Cheryl at 408-621-3773. She offers free adoption support and care coaching.

Want to learn more about Buttons and Bobbins, or make yourself a new best friend for life? Then please visit the San José Animal Care Center website at www.sanjoseanimals.com, or call (408) 794-PAWS (7297). Adoptions are conducted Tuesday through Sunday between 9am and 4pm, on a FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED BASIS. If you are interested in adopting, please write down the I.D. number of the pet you would like (example: A1234567).



Contact Us!

Want to sign up for the newsletter? Please email Stacie Shih at stacie.shih@asm.ca.gov.



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Sacramento, CA 94249

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F: (916) 319-2127

District Office

100 Paseo de San Antonio, Suite 319

San José, CA 95113

P: (408) 277-1220

F: (408) 277-1036

State Agencies Contact Information

Administrative Law	(916) 323-6225
Aging	(916) 419-7500
Alcoholic Beverage Control	(916) 419-2500
Board of Equalization	(800) 400-7115
Bureau of Automotive Repair	(800) 952-5210
California Courts	(415) 865-4200
California Highway Patrol	(800) 835-5247
Caltrans	(916) 654-2852
Child Supportive Services	(866) 901-3212
Consumer Affairs	(800) 952-5210
Controller's Office	(916) 445-3028
Developmental Services	(916) 654-1690
Employment Development	(800) 300-5616
Fair Employment & Housing	(800) 884-1684
Fair Political Practices Commission	(916) 322-5660
Fish & Wildlife	(916) 445-0411
Food & Agriculture	(916) 654-0466
Health Care Services	(916) 445-1248
High Speed Rail Authority	(916) 324-1541
Insurance	(800) 927-4357
Motor Vehicles	(800) 777-0133
Parks & Recreation	(800) 777-0369
Public Health	(916) 558-1784
Rehabilitation	(916) 324-1313
Secretary of State	(916) 653-6814
Social Services	(916) 651-8848
Toxic Substances Control	(800) 728-6942
Veterans Affairs	(800) 952-5626



Californians have made great progress in recent years embracing wise water use as a daily habit. But our state's water future remains uncertain due to precipitation variability and a changing climate. It is more critical than ever that Californians work together to Save Our Water and make the world a better place for our children, grandchildren, and future generations.



For simple tips on how you can help save water, indoors and outdoors, please visit <https://saveourwater.com/en/How-to-Save-Water>.