

Thu, Jul 13, 2023

# CALIFORNIA



*Lots of activity up and down the coast these days: In L.A., we joined hospitality workers as they strike for better pay and treatment; in the Bay, we helped convince members of a school board to stand up for affordable housing. Reports on both below, plus Bishop Barber's Fourth of July reflections and a promising update on a police brutality case in Marin.*

# Announcement



## Coming soon: Moral Poverty Action Congress CA PPC reportback

Last month, hundreds of directly impacted people, faith leaders and advocates from over 30 states traveled to Washington D.C. to put the nation on notice that we will not be silent anymore as poverty kills 800 Americans every single day. During this Moral Poverty Action Congress, we strategized and mobilized to shift the nation's attention to the reality of poverty and force elected leaders to take action to end unnecessary and avoidable murder by public policy.

In our preparation for the Congress, all delegates committed to deepen their work in their community and statewide. Join us for an online reportback from delegates about what we did at the Congress and how it's impacting our work here in CA as we organize to close the wealth gap. Check here next week for details.

# News



## L.A. hotel workers are back on strike

LA PPC activists have been busy supporting striking hotel workers across the southland since last weekend, when a contract between UNITE HERE Local 11 and some 60 hotels expired. On the Fourth of July, we joined workers in downtown Los Angeles, chanting and banging pots

and pans as they marched to several major hotels. This week, strikers and supporters have been showing up on picket lines at hotels near LAX.

As reported in this newsletter, the workers are demanding an immediate \$5/hour wage increase to keep pace with the soaring cost of housing. Other demands: affordable family healthcare, pensions that enable workers to retire with security and a safe and humane workload. [ABC News](#) reports that hotel representatives have offered a \$2.50/hour increase in the first 12 months and \$6.25 over four years.

Hospitality workers from eight additional Southern California hotels joined the strike on Monday, July 10, as part of the second wave to demand fair wages. Read coverage [here](#).

For updates, keep an eye on the [UNITE HERE Local 11 website](#).

## Recap



### **Progress for Laney College students at recent Peralta Board meeting**

Students and community were back at the Peralta Board of Trustees meeting on June 27— this time, with a successful outcome. As we reported back in March, the Peralta Community College District has the opportunity to take advantage of California Senate Bill No. 169, which provides \$250 million in one-time grants for California community colleges to help with the construction, acquisition and renovation of commercial properties for the purpose of providing low-cost housing for students enrolled in public post-secondary education.

But even though Peralta students struggle to find affordable housing—as one Laney student and PPC activist said, “I live in my vehicle, and I go to school here”—the district did not apply for the funds in the first two rounds. This is the third round of applications for SB 169, and the deadline to apply is July 15.

This time, a few votes from the board switched in favor of the students, and many of the talking points that Laney College PPC sent out or expressed at the meeting were used by board members in support of the bill. Rev. Monica Cross, a CA PPC coordinating committee member who has been supporting the students’ efforts, spoke on the importance of this shift and the work ahead.

“That is no small thing,” she said. “We should all be proud of the success achieved through pushing the board and district to take the first steps towards building housing for all the students and employees that need it. With that said, our role in this process just got even more important, because we now begin the task of forming a student/community advisory group on

student housing. It is clear from the meeting that we need all allies engaged: There will be some strong opponents to building the student housing that will likely spread fearful and scarcity-driven messages.”

For more information on Peralta Student Housing, head to [The Oaklandside](#). To get involved, please send an email to Jon Sullivan at [jon.m.sullivan26@gmail.com](mailto:jon.m.sullivan26@gmail.com).

---

## Support the California PPC!

*When over 140 million Americans are poor or living with low-wages, it's time for systemic change. We are building a movement led by poor and impacted folks, building across all lines of division, in order to topple the interlocking pillars of racism, poverty, militarism, environmental destruction and this country's distorted moral narrative. Please help us achieve this goal by clicking below and chipping in whatever you can.*

**DONATE**

---

## PPC in the media

### **“On Eve of July 4th, Bishop William Barber Unveils ‘Moral Declaration for America’”**

Last week’s patriotic displays weren’t just about fireworks and grilling. [Common Dreams](#) recognized the Fourth of July with an article on Bishop Barber and an open letter he had written to the President, Congress and “all the people of this Republic who claim to be on the side of love, truth, and justice.” In the [letter](#), Bishop Barber weighs the recent Supreme Court rulings that have struck down affirmative action and student debt relief.

“Now more than ever,” Bishop Barber writes, “we need strong, bold, and expansive legislation in America that establishes justice, promotes the general welfare, ensures domestic tranquility, and guarantees equal protection under the law.” Read more [here](#).

Bishop Barber also [appeared](#) on MSNBC’s Morning Joe program to speak about the injustice of the Supreme Court decision to strike down affirmative action. He called for people to “use their anger to power a push for change,” to come together in action in a pro-love, pro-justice, moral fusion movement, and sign the [open letter](#). “Finger-pointing at extremists is a wasteful exercise that wrongfully whittles this moment in our history down to a difference of opinion rather than a crisis of civilization.”

### **“Criminal charges filed against San Rafael cops involved in Mateo’s assault”**

After 10 long months reviewing evidence, Marin County District Attorney Lori Frugoli has filed charges against the former police officers who assaulted Julio Lopez, known as “Mateo,” last July. Their trial is set for August 11. Vocal support from his community, including PPC volunteers, helped Mateo, and police charges against him were dropped upon review of body cam footage. You can read more about the case in the [Pacific Sun](#).

---

*Thanks for reading. If you have any questions, you are welcome to reply to this newsletter or email [california@poorpeoplescampaign.org](mailto:california@poorpeoplescampaign.org).*