



Perris Press Release

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February 16: Black History Month Exposition & Celebration

The City of Perris is hosting the 12th annual Black History Month Exposition & Celebration on Feb. 16, a festival that features food, music and information about employment opportunities and changes to health care laws affecting millions of Americans.

Festivities take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the Bob Glass Gym, 101 North D Street as part of Black History Month.

Perris City Councilwoman Rita Rogers said the fabric of the City is made stronger from the contributions of all its diverse populations.

“Black History Month celebrates the achievements of African-Americans,” Rogers said. “The City of Perris enjoys a rich cultural diversity and remains a welcoming community. The contributions from Perris residents have woven a rich tapestry for the City.”

Emmett Reid, a member of the Black History Month Committee, said the emphasis this year will be on employment and health care, particularly the Affordable Care Act. Reid said vendors at the expo will answer questions about the act and who is eligible to receive care under its provisions. Representatives from Riverside County employment services also will attend.

In addition, Reid said the committee wants to show its appreciation to Perris churches for their community spirit and outreach.

Certificates of appreciation will be presented to ministers and church leaders, he said. The expo also will feature student art projects and musical performances from Gospel groups. Lunch will be provided. Reid said the City of Perris has always supported events like Black History Month.

“We just embrace the City with open arms,” Reid said. “Perris is a City that is very tolerant to all folks—it’s a tolerant and progressive City. We want to use this event the successes we’ve made as a people. You see more black entrepreneurs, school principals and vice principals and business owners. We want to celebrate that.”

Reid said he grateful to the City for improving its roads and bridges, attracting new businesses and affordable housing for seniors and low-income residents, preserving D Street and its history, bringing in transportation projects like the Metrolink station and expanding the variety of youth sports and recreation activities.

“They add to the vitality of this community,” he said. “We want to be part of all that.”



Perris resident Emmett Reid, a member of the Black History Month Committee, praised the City of Perris for creating a cultural diverse and tolerant community.