



Perris Press Release

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Black History Month Parade Grand Marshal Announced

A Riverside County school administrator, president of the local chapter of the NAACP and a long-time children's advocate has been selected as the grand marshal for the City of Perris annual Black History Month Parade.

Waudieur "Woodie" Rucker-Hughes began her career as an educator more than 40 years ago and today, in addition to her duties with the NAACP, she serves as the Child Welfare and Attendance Manager at the Riverside Unified School District.

The City of Perris has hosted a Black History Month parade for more than 10 years and serves to highlight Perris as a diverse and welcoming community.

The parade features marching bands, floats, equestrian units, classic cars and the appearance of elected officials, including Mayor Daryl Busch and members of the City Council.

"This parade is always well attended and it honors people who truly deserve it," Busch said. "We're expecting great weather and a great turnout."

The festivities begin at 10 a.m. at the corner of D and Fourth streets. The judging area and stands will be located on East San Jacinto Avenue. After the parade, the City will host an art expo, which features art projects from local students that celebrate black history and culture.

Perris City Councilwoman Rita Rogers said she has known Rucker-Hughes for more than 20 years and called her a "great example of what the parade grand marshal should be."

"It is always important to recognize the history of our culturally diverse City," Rogers said. "And it's important to recognize the contributions African-Americans have made to our country. The NAACP has been fighting for civil rights for almost a century. Our grand marshal has been an outstanding advocate for children and for civil rights for many years. She is a great choice for this honor."

Rucker-Hughes commitment to children dates back to 1969 when she began teaching at North High School in Riverside.

She was an assistant principal at several schools before assuming her duties as the Riverside school district's child welfare and attendance manager. She also serves as the district's Homeless/Foster/Group Home Liaison for The Group, a grassroots public policy advocacy organization that serves as a forum for discussing and responding to community issues.

Rucker-Hughes also works with the Eastside Think Tank and the Eleanor Jean Grier Leadership Academy.

