



News from the City of Compton

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor Eric J. Perrodin and the Compton City Council To Host Third Annual Mardi Gras Festival

Compton, CA, February 10, 2009– Compton Mayor Eric J. Perrodin is inviting everyone to attend the Mardi Gras Festival, Saturday, February 21, 2009, in Wilson Park, 123 North Rose Ave. The Festival includes a carnival, which runs from February 19 through February 23.

“The City of Compton has a lot of Louisiana natives who would love to go to Mardi Gras, but can’t. So we plan to bring Mardi Gras to them and others who cannot travel to New Orleans,” says Mayor Perrodin.

Compton’s event coincides with the New Orleans’s Mardi Gras and will have all the hoopla, revelry and fanfare that goes with it, including rides, beads, masks, king cakes, doubloons, live performances and food.

On Saturday, entertainment will begin at 12 p.m. The New Orleans Mardi Gras-style second-line dancers will get underway at 4 p.m. with revelers and “krewes” from Compton and surrounding areas gathering along Alameda Blvd. Live entertainment will follow from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., at the VFW Post 5394, 303 East Palmer Street.

The Mardi Gras, called “America’s Greatest Party, dates back to the Middle Ages. It came to North America in 1699 when French explorer Iberville and his men

explored the Mississippi River from the Gulf of Mexico. On a spot 60 miles south of the present location of New Orleans, they set up camp on the river's West Bank. Knowing that the day, March 3, was being celebrated as a major holiday in Paris, they christened the site Point du Mardi Gras. However Mardi Gras' roots predate the French. Many see a relationship to the ancient tribal rituals of fertility that welcomed the arrival of Spring. The first Mardi Gras parade was held in New Orleans on February 24, 1857.

For more information, contact the mayor's secretary, Karen Haywood, at (310) 605-5597 or Sheila Fenderson at (310) 605-6311.

Known as the "Hub City" because of its unique position in almost the exact geographical center of Los Angeles County, Compton is strategically located along the Alameda Corridor, a passageway of 25 percent of all U.S. waterborne international trade. Compton is rapidly emerging as a large industrial center in Los Angeles County for transit, distribution, business services, high technology, home and lifestyle products, metals, financial services, and textile manufacturing.

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