



**CITY OF COMPTON, MAYOR AJA BROWN**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**“The City of Compton Launches My Brother’s Keeper Initiative at Compton High School”**  
*---Operated by Operation HOPE---*

Compton, CA - Building on President Barack Obama’s My Brother’s Keeper (MBK) national initiative, Mayor Aja Brown and the City of Compton launched the MBK Operation HOPE Program at Compton and Dominguez High Schools on March 3, 2015. This initiative is part of Brown’s overall efforts to support the success of MBK locally and also foster inclusion and youth development throughout the City of Compton. This is the first of a number of 2015 City of Compton initiatives to actively engage the community to promote positive outcomes for all youth, especially Black and Latino boys and young men.

In November, Mayor Brown hosted a major local action summit to engage the community in the development and shaping of the MBK Initiative in Compton. During the summit, Mayor Brown welcomed Michael Smith, Special Assistant to the President on My Brother’s Keeper along with community leaders, elected officials, law enforcement personnel, business owners, faith-based leaders, former gang members, youth leaders and community-based organizations. The MBK Operation HOPE Program is the first engagement opportunity resulting from this summit and will engage 300 high school seniors in the city. The objective of the program is to help students take control over their financial futures.

"We are working with local partners like Compton and Dominguez High Schools to provide programs and exposures to change the outcomes and improve the lives of boys and young men of color," said Mayor Brown."

"What an incredible opportunity to impact young boys of color in the city of Compton," said Operation HOPE contact Aubrey Relf. "We applaud Mayor Brown for her leadership to make My Brother’s Keeper a reality in Compton schools."

In line with this initiative, the city of Compton conducted the following actions:

- On September 30, 2014 City of Compton accepted the President's My Brother's Keeper Community Challenge which encouraged local governments to build and execute a plan to improve the life outcomes of all young people.
- On November 14, 2014, hosted around 100 participants showed up to our local action summit. The summit was comprised of community leaders, elected officials, law enforcement personnel, business owners, faith-based leaders, former gang members, youth leaders and community-based organizations. Overall, the summit helped to successfully build momentum, spread awareness of MBK goals, collect pertinent information, and inform partners of action steps to meet the benchmarks set by the White House for the My Brother's Keeper Challenge.
- Launched an action plan to measurably improve outcomes for children of color ages 0-25 and their families, with an emphasis on Black males
- On March 2, 2015 launched local programming Operation HOPE at Compton High School

The youth financial literacy component of the MBK initiative is made possible by the partnership between the City of Compton, Compton Unified School District, Wells Fargo and Operation HOPE. For more information, contact Operation HOPE in Compton, Aubrey Relf at [aubrey.relf@operationhope.org](mailto:aubrey.relf@operationhope.org).

**About the City of Compton** - The City of Compton, California covers approximately 10.2 square miles in Los Angeles County, California situated south of downtown Los Angeles. With a current population of almost 100,000 citizens, Compton is 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 and distribution, business services, high technology, home and lifestyle products, metals, financial services, and textile manufacturing. For more on the Mayor's Vision for the City of Compton visit <http://visionforcompton.org>.

**About My Brother's Keeper** - On September 27th, President Obama announced that more than 100 mayors, county officials and tribal nations have accepted the MBK Community Challenge, an initiative to encourage community leaders across the country to develop plans to improve life outcomes and address persistent opportunity gaps faced by boys and young men of color, ensuring that all young people can reach their full potential. In line with this initiative, the city of Compton has launched an action plan to measurably improve outcomes for children of color ages 0-25 and their families, with an emphasis on Black males. Currently, Compton is focusing on three of the six recommended goals issued by the White House:

1. Reading at grade level by third grade;
2. Improve access to jobs and valuable work experience;
3. Reducing violence and providing a second chance.

For more on My Brother's Keeper visit [www.whitehouse.gov/my-brothers-keeper](http://www.whitehouse.gov/my-brothers-keeper).

**About Operation HOPE** – The mission of Operation HOPE, Inc. (HOPE) is civil rights empowerment, making free enterprise work for everyone. It accomplishes this through work on the ground as the nonprofit private banker for the working poor, the underserved and struggling middle class. For more on Operation HOPE visit <http://www.operationhope.org/aboutus#sthash.9PpTh8Fk.dpuf>.

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