



For Immediate Release
March 29, 2017

Mayor's Statement on Arrest of City Employee for Public Theft

COMPTON, CA – Mayor Aja Brown made the following statement today regarding the arrest of former deputy city treasurer Salvador Gavan on federal charges related to the theft of more than \$3.7 million of city funds:

“Unfortunately, the actions of one employee can challenge the public’s trust that we strive daily as a City to rebuild.

As Mayor, I take any incidents of misconduct very seriously. I can assure the residents of Compton that as a City Council and governing body, we remain unanimous on our goals of transparency and accountability.

I will continue to work with my colleagues on the City Council to continue to review and update the City's internal financial controls to take the appropriate actions necessary to prevent a similar situation in the future. We have fully cooperated with all outside agencies investigating this matter.

Over the last year, we have worked collaboratively with the National Resource Network to complete a full comprehensive review of City operations. Since this issue was brought to light in December of 2015, we have hired a highly qualified City Controller to implement a complete overhaul of our entire financial and accounting systems to address decades of fiscal mismanagement.

I knew Compton had its challenges when I came into office in 2013 and we have been working diligently to find out the complete history of Compton’s finances—including reviewing records as far back as 30 years.

Over the last several years, this City Council has worked to approve new internal controls, improve our fiscal accountability, and root out corruption and wasteful spending at every opportunity in an effort to be good

custodians of our residents' tax dollars.

Let me be clear. Any City official or employee who has been found to have breached their duties as stewards of the public trust will be held to accountable for their actions and relieved of duty.

The alleged embezzlement and theft of public funds is an egregious affront to the hard working residents of Compton as well as to our dedicated employees. The action of one person does not represent our committed City employees who--like you--are just as disappointed.”

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