



Press Release

January 24, 2026

City of Compton posthumously honored legacy of Attorney Maxcy Dean Filer with installation of Maxcy D. Filer Square

Compton, CA – The City of Compton hosted an installation ceremony for Maxcy D. Filer Square, on Saturday, January 24, 2026. Today's honor commemorated the life and legacy of Attorney Maxcy Dean Filer, who passed away in 2011 after decades of service as a pioneering civil rights leader, longtime public servant, and community advocate.

Members of the Filer family attended the ceremony and took part in the program. His children, Duane L. Filer, Judge Kelvin D. Filer, Stephanie L. Filer Hoxey, and Attorney Anthony S. Filer, spoke about his life, his character, and the profound influence he had on Compton and on generations of residents.

The family also witnessed the unveiling of the Maxcy D. Filer Square signage installed at the intersection of Arbutus Street and Matthisen Avenue, with one located in front of the Filer family home and the other positioned directly across the street. The Filer family was presented with a miniature replica of the sign to honor Mr. Filer's legacy.

"I hope when people are driving through and they see sign, I hope they will think about the words on my father's tombstone, 'whatever goal you want, whatever your dream is, never ever give up,'" said Judge Kelvin D. Filer.

"Maxcy D. Filer was more than a leader, he was the conscience of Compton. His lifelong commitment to justice, civil rights, and public service laid a foundation that continues to shape our city today. Naming this intersection in his honor ensures that future generations will know his story and be reminded that courageous perseverance and resilient determination can create lasting change," said Compton Councilwoman Deidre M. Duhart.

Known affectionately as "Mr. Compton," Attorney Filer dedicated his life to justice, equity, and community empowerment. His civic leadership began with his role as President of the Compton Branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. During his tenure, he championed voter registration drives, fought housing discrimination, and represented Southern California at the historic 1963 March on Washington.

The ceremony served as a tribute to a distinguished leader whose influence helped shape the City of Compton and whose legacy continues to inspire future generations.

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