



# Media Advisory

February 11, 2026

## City of Compton to honor retired journalist with Key to City during Black History Month

**Compton, CA** – The City of Compton will celebrate one of its own on Saturday, February 21. Legendary retired journalist and longtime ABC7 news anchor Leslie Sykes will be presented with a Key to the City during our Black History Month celebration.

Raised in Compton, Sykes spent more than 30 years at ABC7. She proudly represented her hometown on one of the largest media platforms in Southern California.

“I am incredibly honored to be selected by the Compton City Council to receive a Key to the City,” said Leslie Sykes. “I grew up on South Poinsettia and Tartar Lane, playing outside from morning until night, swimming every summer at Compton College, and being shaped by a community that felt like family. To be recognized by my hometown is deeply meaningful.”

Throughout her career, Sykes consistently highlighted the people of Compton, its neighborhoods, schools, and culture, offering viewers a fuller and more authentic picture of the city beyond longstanding stereotypes. Her work reflected not only journalistic excellence, but a deep love for the community that shaped her.

“During Black History Month, the City of Compton is proud to honor Leslie Sykes with a Key to the City in recognition of her outstanding contributions, leadership, and commitment to uplifting our community,” said Compton Mayor Emma Sharif. “Ms. Sykes represents the excellence, resilience, and service that define Compton.”

The event will feature the official Key to the City presentation honoring Leslie Sykes, remarks from City leadership and guest speakers who have played meaningful roles in her life and career. There will also be a photo display showcasing her life, legacy, and longstanding ties to the City of Compton.

### **MEDIA OPPORTUNITY**

Saturday, February 21

Dollarhide Community Center | 301 N Tamarind Ave, Compton, CA 90220

**Interviews at 11 a.m. Program starts at 12 p.m.**

Mayor, City Council members, and Leslie Sykes will be available for interviews

Reserved parking will be provided behind Dollarhide in parking structure

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