



DON BARTLETTI Los Angeles Times

**MIKE BOSTIC**, a former assistant chief in the LAPD, has unabashedly presented himself as a savior to Calexico residents, promising that he would rid their Police Department of "the cancer living within it."

**COLUMN ONE**

## A big task in a small town

In hard-luck Calexico, a former top LAPD official took over a police force that some say had long been run like a fiefdom.

By Joel Rubin  
Reporting from  
CALEXICO, CALIF.

Sitting hard up against a towering rusted fence that separates the United States from Mexico, this city is for most a dreary gantlet of fast-food restaurants and gas stations on the way to one of California's two official border crossings.

Calexico wasn't a place that Mike Bostic had ever visited. In fact, the former high-ranking Los Angeles police official thought it was in Mexico until he got a call from its new city manager in September.

The call led to a secret meeting in a San Diego hotel room. There, the city manager, Richard Warne, told Bostic that a group of veteran cops was running the department like a fiefdom, taking home big overtime checks while very little police work was getting done.

Calexico needed a new police chief, Warne said. And he wanted Bostic for the job.

But after three decades in the Los Angeles Police Department, Bostic had been out of policing for years, trading his badge for [See Bostic, A13]



BETHANY MOLLENKOP Los Angeles Times

**ALI FENG**, left, compares products with Susan Moy at the 99 Ranch grocery store that recently replaced a Ralphs store in Alhambra.

## CHANGING TASTES

In Alhambra, an Asian market replacing a Ralphs stirs cultural anxiety, friction

By Frank Shyong

As classic diners and soda fountains gave way to double-decker strip malls packed with Chinese restaurants, Margie Myers, a resident of Alhambra for 64 years, didn't say much.

She weathered friends and neighbors moving away and endured the steady retreat of English from storefront signs.

But the change she couldn't accept came in June, when the Ralphs on Alhambra's Main Street closed and was replaced by 99 Ranch, an Asian supermarket.

"I know the city's changing," Myers said. "That's just inevitable. But does it have to change our supermarket?"

Few hallmarks of demographic change generate as much controversy as the death of the neighborhood grocery store.

This spring, Alhambra residents packed City Council meetings at the

news that the Ralphs on Main Street was closing, though the city had no role in the renting of the space. Rumors flew of Chinese ownership driving up rental prices to kick Ralphs out, though the property owners are not Chinese and Ralphs decided not to renew an expiring lease.

The debate over Ralphs contained all the fears and frictions found in any rapidly changing community. Longtime residents couldn't accept that demographic change had reached their grocery baskets. Immigrants and newcomers complained of xenophobia and racism in the opposition's protests.

Alhambra's conflict echoes in communities across the Southland. Latino grocery stores move into South Los Angeles and a mini-Wal-Mart battles for market share in Chinatown, said Min Zhou, a professor of sociology at UCLA. [See Alhambra, A8]

## Union pay exemption up for debate

An effort to create a minimum-wage loophole causes a backlash rarely seen in pro-labor L.A.

By Peter Jamison

One of the most divisive issues that Los Angeles City Council members expect to confront when they return this week from a summer recess will be a proposal by labor leaders to exempt unionized workers from the city's new minimum wage.

The push for the loophole, which began in the final days before the law's passage, caused a backlash rarely seen in this pro-union city and upended perceptions of labor's role in the fight to raise pay for the working poor. Union activists were among the most stalwart backers of L.A.'s ordinance raising the wage to \$15 by 2020, and argued against special consideration for nonprofits and small businesses.

Rusty Hicks, head of the Los Angeles County Federation of Labor, said the union waiver would be a routine protection against challenges to the ordinance under federal labor law. "This is about staying consistent with previous provisions and crafting something that will withstand legal scrutiny and delay," Hicks said in May. In California, he added, "we've seen every city that has passed a minimum wage include this kind of a provision."

A Times review of other cities' minimum wage laws, as well as interviews with labor leaders and legal experts, suggests the truth is more complicated.

Guarantees that organized workers should be allowed to bargain for a sub-minimum wage appear to have scant legal justification, some experts said. They are not a universal feature of local wage ordinances, in California or other states. San Diego, the largest California city to raise its minimum wage in recent years before L.A., did not include such an exception.

And whether the exemptions are what their harshest critics say — a scheme to swell union rolls with more dues-paying members by appealing to businesses that would rather let workers organize than be forced to pay them more — they are unpopular even among some at the highest levels of the labor movement.

"Unions in America, obviously we're in decline," said Dave Regan, president of SEIU-UHW, the union that represents home healthcare workers and is leading the campaign for a California ballot measure to raise the statewide minimum wage to \$15. "I don't think we help ourselves by taking posi-

tions where we don't hold ourselves to the same standards as everybody else."

Regan said that "under no circumstances" would such an exemption be included in the 2016 initiative that SEIU-UHW is championing. He said it was "silly" to suggest, as some in L.A. do, that the exemption would make a wage increase more legally defensible. "I just think that's a red herring," he said. "It's not true."

In May, when L.A. elected leaders approved the minimum wage increase, they opted to defer debate on the [See Exemption, A9]

## Gang attacks spark jitters

One person is killed and 11 wounded in weekend shootings across South L.A.

By Kate Mather

Fed up with a recent rash of gang violence in South Los Angeles, Naima Smith gathered a group Saturday at a Baptist church on Hoover Street to talk about ways to bring peace to their neighborhood.

Smith, 32, a lifelong resident of South L.A., left the gathering feeling encouraged. Then her phone rang.

It was the pastor. There had just been another shooting, right outside the church. A man was dead.

The killing was part of a violent weekend in the LAPD's 77th Street Division in South Los Angeles. Seven shooting incidents Friday and Saturday left one person dead and 11 wounded, prompting police to pull in more officers to help quell the violence.

As the LAPD's investigation into the shootings continued Sunday, so did rumors within the community and on social media about one gang's supposed promise that the attacks would [See Shootings, A10]

## Legislature focuses on sex assaults

At least four bills aim to bring more consistency to the way colleges deal with campus sexual assault cases. CALIFORNIA, B1

## Windows pines for a little love

Microsoft is hoping its Windows 10 upgrade, due out this week, will be an object of desire, not just utility. MONDAY BUSINESS, A13

## Too little, too late for Cosby?

Bill Cosby's legal team has a new public face, but analysts say it may be too late to save the comedian's reputation. CALENDAR, E1

**Weather**  
Partly cloudy.  
L.A. Basin: 82/65. B8

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## Meet the new and old Hillary

By sharing personal details, the Clinton campaign hopes to make her relatable.

By Michael A. Memoli

WASHINGTON — Have you heard that Hillary Rodham Clinton is now a grandmother? Surely you have. But did you know that as a young girl she wanted to be an astronaut? Or that she played on a softball team called the Good & Plenties, with pink and white uniforms?

The source of all that information is Clinton herself. And actually, just call her by her first name. "Hillary is fine by me," she recently told a New Hampshire voter who asked how he should address her.

After more than two decades in the public eye, Clinton entered her second presidential race this spring with nearly universal name recognition. But her campaign staff viewed the situation differently, calling her the least-known famous person in the world; the public view is of the former first lady, senator and secretary [See Clinton, A6]



KELSEY KREMER Des Moines Register

**HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON**, shown at a lemonade stand outside an Iowa event, has taken a more personal approach than in her 2008 campaign by focusing on her background and family life during small, intimate gatherings with voters.