



NEWS RELEASE

Economic Development

CONTACT:

Soua Vang

Interim Director

909-387-4460

Svang@ed.sbcounty.gov

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San Bernardino County State of the County | Regional Business Summit Delivers Strong Message of Opportunity and Growth

American Idol Winner and County Native Chayce Beckham Acoustic Performance Closes Show

San Bernardino County, CA (October 8, 2021) -- San Bernardino County welcomed hundreds of business, government and community leaders to its State of the County | Regional Business Summit held at the Toyota Arena on October 6. The event, hosted by Board of Supervisors Chairman Curt Hagman, featured a breadth of information encompassing County data, interviews with business leaders as well as updates on County programs and initiatives that made a difference in keeping residents safe and healthy and helping businesses to thrive.

The Board of Supervisors each delivered a message on critical areas of success in County programs that included education and workforce, economic development and foreign trade, public safety, healthy communities, and increasing equity. Included in these programs was the recognition that San Bernardino County became the first county in California to declare racism a public health crisis. "Our hope is that the equity element group and the conversations that it is conducting will help us to grow a more fair, just and more prosperous community for everyone in San Bernardino County," said Supervisor Rutherford.

"While this past year has tested each and every one of us, it has not slowed down the pace of progress. Billions of dollars are being invested in San Bernardino County in technology, transportation, healthcare, and new entertainment venues," said Chairman Hagman.

Chairman Hagman and the County's new Chief Communications Officer Martha Guzman-Hurtado teamed up to share more news on these developments including an update on the TopGolf entertainment experience being built in Ontario -- the first in Southern California, as well as The Boring Company's plans for an underground transit loop that will shuttle thousands of passengers between Ontario International Airport and the Rancho Cucamonga Metrolink station.



A subsequent video reported on investments in the County by Brightline West, Starlink and General Atomics Aeronautical. These innovations were followed by an interview with Ken Ramirez, chairman, San Manuel Mission Band of Indians, who shared more on the tribe's economic and philanthropic investments including creation of more than 7,000 local jobs. "San Manuel's goal is to keep philanthropy dollars in local communities, so that everyone has a chance at success," said Ramirez.

Chairman Hagman also shared a video featuring the work of County-based MP Materials, the only integrated rare earth mining and processing site in North America, and KIGT, the only and first African-American manufacturer of electric vehicle charging stations. These firms exemplify the County's burgeoning electric transportation infrastructure that benefits the nation and world.

The final business video focused on small business success and young business leaders. "Many of these businesses are founded by young people who are born here, grow up here, and are now ready to invest here because they believe in what San Bernardino County has to offer. In many ways they are community champions," said Hagman.

The video highlighted the work of local investor and entrepreneur David Friedman of Realicore Real Estate Group, Destiny Muse of Grounded along with the non-profit Youth Action Project (YAP) and its empowering work through its Black and Brown Economic Empowerment Partnership (BEEP) that supports young people who are working to redevelop their communities. "Reinvesting matters to this region. If we can find a way to develop our local region that makes it attractive for residents to stay, to retain our local talent, the County will thrive," noted Tremaine Mitchell, co-founder and executive director, YAP.

The State of the County | Regional Business Summit closed with a live acoustic performance by hometown star Chayce Beckham, this year's American Idol winner and Apple Valley native who played his number one hit "23."

To view the State of the County | Regional Business Summit, visit the link at [San Bernardino: San Bernardino \(selectsbcounty.com\)](https://selectsbcounty.com) or on CountyWire at [State of the County 2021 Delivers Strong Message of Opportunity and Growth | County of San Bernardino – CountyWire \(sbcounty.gov\)](https://sbcounty.gov).

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About San Bernardino County: Located at the heart of Southern California, an economy of 23 million people, San Bernardino County is the largest county in the United States. Its vast borders stretch from the greater Los Angeles area to the Nevada border and the Colorado River encompassing a total area of 20,160 square miles. Comprised of 24 cities, San Bernardino County encompasses more than two million residents with a workforce of over 950,000. Its assets include an innovation corridor of close to two dozen colleges and universities supporting a strong, diverse workforce along with an unparalleled collection of roadways, runways and railways that lead to regional, national and international business centers. Learn more at www.selectsbcounty.com.