

Long Beach Police Department's gang detail officers say Cambodia Town will not heighten racial violence among different gangs or ethnic groups.

"There's gang culture and there's culture culture. They're separated," police spokesperson Jason Wong said. "We have no reason to believe, and we do not anticipate, that there will be an increase in any tension between the Cambodian and Latino communities or an increase in gang tension."

Long Beach, Press-Telegram 10/22/2006



លោក ប្រាយិន បិន (រូបឆ្វេង) និងលោក សុទ្ធ ប៉ាលីន (រូបខាងស្តាំ) អ្នកប្រឆាំងមិនឲ្យមានភូមិខ្មែរ កំពុងថ្លែងការណ៍ ។ លោក សុទ្ធ ប៉ាលីន បានមានប្រសាសន៍ថា ក្នុងនាមជា ពលរដ្ឋអាមេរិកាំងម្នាក់ លោកប្រឆាំងដាច់ខាតមិនឲ្យមានភូមិខ្មែរ ។ លោកលើក ឡើងថា ការដាក់ឲ្យមានឈ្មោះភូមិខ្មែរ នឹងបង្កឲ្យមានភាពតានតឹងរវាងជាតិសាសន៍ ជា ពិសេសបង្កឲ្យមានការបង្ខំឈាមរវាងពួកហ្គ្រីន ។ ដូច្នេះ បើគ្មានឈ្មោះភូមិខ្មែរទេ ពួកហ្គ្រីនក៏រលាយខ្លួនបាត់ទៅដូច្នោះដែរ មែនទេ?

Almost Heaven, Cambodia Town

By: Borann Heam
Khemara Times
Staff Writer

Cambodia Town, CA – There is no doubt that the official designation of Cambodia Town is currently one of the hottest debated topics in Long Beach, and over 200 hundred Cambodians at City Hall can't be wrong.

On Tuesday, October 24, at the City Council's meeting, hundreds of Cambodians, young and old, packed the chamber room, while many more overflowed onto the hallway in support of Cambodia Town. The vibrant crowd was charged with energy in anticipation for the City Council to vote "Yes" on designating Anaheim Street between Junipero and Atlantic officially as Cambodia Town.

One of the supporters, Gary Ung, owner of Bamboo Island Restaurant, printed over 300 glossy green and pink Cambodia Town stickers as a symbol of unity.

Meanwhile, Melinda Ung, a freshman at Cal State Fullerton and Vice-President of the Cambodian Student Association, rallied her friends from Fullerton and carpooled to Long Beach to witness this historical date in history. "I'm here to support the Cambo-

(Continued on page 24)



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Don't Forget to vote.
Tuesday Nov. 7th, 2006

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"WE ARE HERE FOR THE CAMBODIA TOWN" កូនខ្មែរ នៅតែជាកូនខ្មែរ! ទោះបីជាមានកំណើតនៅស្រុកគេក៏ដោយ ។
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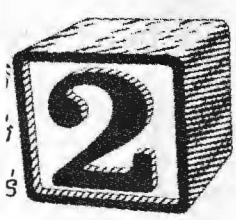


បងប្អូនខ្មែរទាំងចាស់-ក្មេង ទាំងអ្នកជនពិការ កំពុងអង្គុយរង់ចាំជាន់ជ្រាំម៉ោងនៅខាងក្រៅសាលប្រជុំដោយចិត្តអត់ធ្មត់។
Cambodian Americans and our friends, young and old, men and women, waited patiently for over five (5) hours out side the chamber.

សូមពឹង

ចុះ

ស្តីកំពុងមានផ្ទៃពោះ,
ក្នុងរដ្ឋកាលីហ្វ័រញ៉ា ។



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ទទួលបានស្វ័យប្រវត្តិ

សវា WIC



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(Continued from page 1)

dian community," she said. "We want to see the label of Cambodia Town."

With over 50 students in attendance, there is no denying that the students had a critical presence at City Hall. Michael Sar, President of the Cambodian Student Society at Cal State Long Beach, echoed similar statements about the designation. "I'm excited to see all these people coming together as a community to support a cause," Michael said. "It shows that the Cambodian people are strong and that they can believe in a cause, and can make it happen."

According to Him Chhim, Executive Director of Cambodian Association of America (CAA), this has been a long time coming. "This is a double plus for me," said the 65 years old veteran Mr. Chhim, who also just recently celebrated his retirement party with CAA. "You could not ask for happier times. I get to witness the birth of Cambodia Town and the birth of my retirement, together within a short period."

After over two hours of public discussion for those against or for the proposal. Late into the evening, Council members, finally, voted 6-3 in favor of sending the Cambodia Town proposal for further review and study. At this point, nothing is quite official yet.

Laura Richardson, 6th District Councilwoman and a co-sponsor of the proposal, added that the results of the study will be discussed again after 90 days. In the meantime, the City needs more time to gather more input from different stakeholders (such as the NAACP and the Latino community) and make it a priority to ad-



dress everyone's concerns, especially regarding racial tension. Councilwoman Tonia Reyes Uranga shared a similar idea.

On the other hand, the three council members who voted in favor of the immediate designation of Cambodia Town were Bonnie Lowenthal, Suja Lowenthal, and Gary DeLong. Although, they were succumbed to the majority of the other six council members, nevertheless, they expressed their commitment to the

Cambodian community.

"I think this designation is terribly, terribly important because that's what gives us official recognition," said the Vice Mayor, Bonnie Lowenthal, who is also a founder of the Phnom Penh Sister City.

In the end, it is the City who has the last word, said Peter Long, President of the Cambodian Coordinating Councils. "It was bound to go this way, because the City has their process," he said. "But I want to thank everyone that came out to show support."

Time, it seems, is of the essence for the organizing committee that introduced the proposal forward. And according to Sithean San, Chairwoman of Cambodia Town, Inc., there is still much work to be done until the next the council meeting.

"It is still unclear what the boundaries are and what the name is of the proposal is yet," she said. "We still have more work to do. We look forward to working with the City Staff to do the study. That is the next step."



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