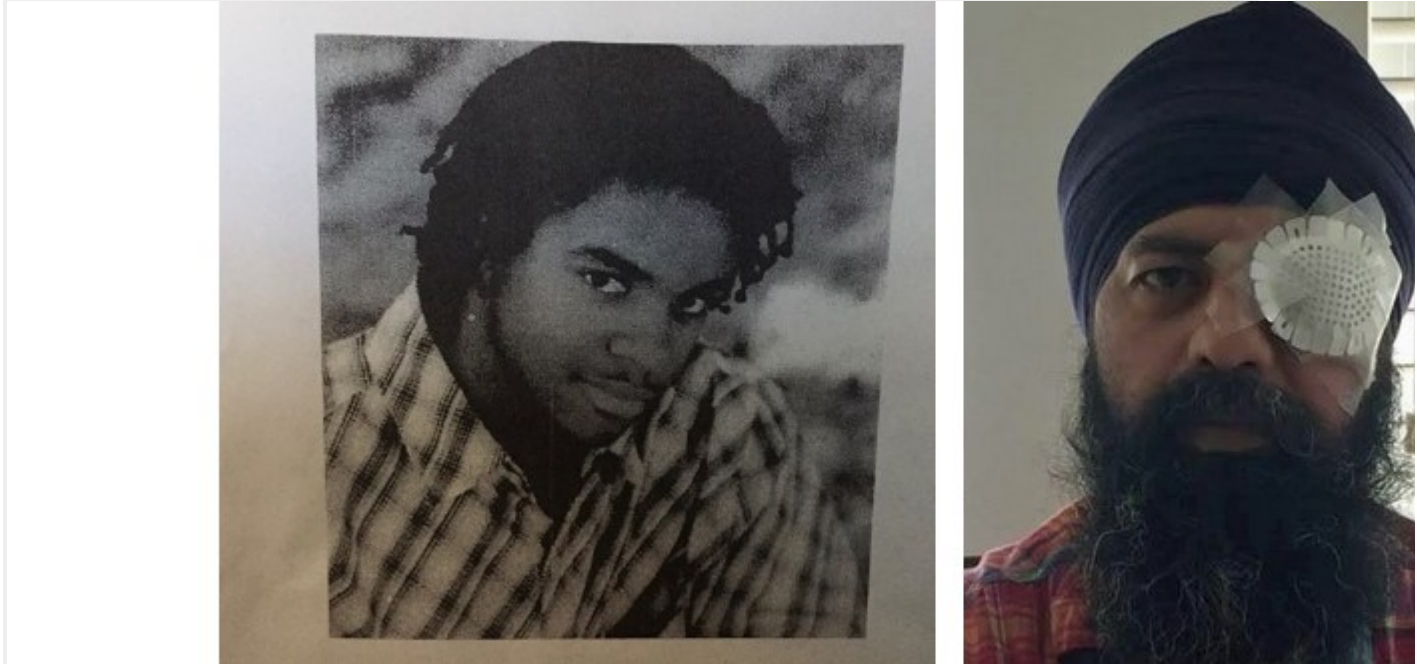


## Public forum in El Sobrante ‘to fight hate crimes and intimidation’



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[1 comment](#)

Local and state officials are holding a public forum in El Sobrante late Saturday morning in response to “the increase of hate crimes nationally and tragic recent alleged hate crimes in West Contra Costa County,” according to Supervisor John Gioia’s office.

The purpose of the forum: “to fight all forms of hate and intimidation,” the statement said.

Donald Trump’s election as U.S. President, according to Gioia, has inspired a “rising visibility of hate and intolerance” across the nation. Locally, two recent alleged incidents have further put the community on edge — the [brutal killing](#) of Will Sims, a black man, at an El Sobrante pool hall, and the [beating](#) of Maan Khalsa, a Sikh.

Saturday's public forum runs from 10 a.m. to noon at the Boys and Girls Club of El Sobrante, 4660 Appian Way. Topics to be covered include hate crimes, intimidation and harassment, and the fear of deportation in immigrant communities, with reps from various organizations in attendance to provide resources and respond to questions and concerns.

Attendees include Gioia, Assemblymember Tony Thurmond, Richmond Mayor Tom Butt, the Contra Costa Public Defender's Office and numerous leaders representing local teachers and schools, civil rights organizations and government agencies.

"Our goals must be to protect the most vulnerable, stand up to intolerance at every level of society, insist on true justice, and embrace diversity as one of the greatest strengths of our neighborhoods, our cities, our state and our nation," Supervisor Gioia said.

In the statement, Assemblymember Thurmond quoted Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to state that the community must band together to "create the beloved community in America where brotherhood is a reality."