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SAN BERNARDINO

Council's Ortiz charged with crime

City official suing police department is accused of illegally recording officers

By Beau Yarbrough and Sierra van der Brug
STAFF WRITERS

San Bernardino City Councilmember Treasure Ortiz has been charged with recording confidential communications with San Bernardino police without consent. The San Bernardino County District Attorney charged Ortiz with violating California's two-party recording consent law.

The law requires that under most circumstances both parties be aware that a private conversation is being recorded. The recording was made in connection with a \$2 million lawsuit she filed against the city in November.

Ortiz could not be reached for comment for this story. She did not address the charges when they were announced at Wednesday's City Council meeting.

"It is alleged that Councilmem-



Ortiz

ber Treasure Ortiz, intentionally and without the consent of all parties to a confidential communication, used an electronic amplifying and recording device, to eavesdrop and record communications with San Bernardino Police Department personnel," the city announced in a news release Wednesday.

The statement was read out by San Bernardino City Attorney

Albert Maldonado at the meeting. Ortiz's lawsuit alleges a former San Bernardino police officer looked her up in a law enforcement database known as the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System, seeking information to discredit her ahead of her run for the City Council.

"On October 25, 2023, a survey was sent to 7th Ward residents asking if they would vote for Plaintiff knowing she has been arrested for domestic violence and was terminated from employment. Both claims were false," the suit reads.

The San Bernardino City Council denied Ortiz's claim in May. Mayor Helen Tran read a statement at that time, calling it "frivolous, filed in bad faith, dishonest and an attempt to swindle the city of San Bernardino out of \$2 million." She also warned Ortiz might have committed perjury.

Ortiz would go on to beat former City Attorney Jim Penman with 55% of the vote to 44% in the election for the council's Ward 7 seat on Nov. 5, 2024.

In addition to the city of San Bernardino, Ortiz's lawsuit names

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ACADEMY AWARD NOMINATIONS

'Sinners' sets record with 16 Oscar nods



Lewis Pullman, left, and Danielle Brooks present the nominees for the 98th Academy Awards on Thursday at the Samuel Goldwyn Theater in Beverly Hills. The Oscars will be presented on March 15 in Hollywood. JORDAN STRAUSS — INVISION/AP

'One Battle After Another' follows with 13 in Warner Bros. 'golden moment'

The Associated Press

Ryan Coogler's blues-steeped vampire epic "Sinners" led all films with 16 nominations to the 98th Academy Awards on Thursday, setting a record for the most in Oscar history.

Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences voters showered "Sinners" with more nominations than they had ever bestowed before, breaking the 14-nomination mark set by "All About Eve," "Titanic" and "La La Land." Along with best picture, Coogler was nominated for best director and best screenplay, and double-duty star Michael B. Jordan was rewarded with his first Oscar nomination, for best actor.

Paul Thomas Anderson's father-daughter revolutionary saga "One Battle After Another," the favorite coming into nominations, trailed in second with 13 of its own. Four of its actors — Leonardo DiCaprio, Teyana Taylor, Benicio del Toro and Sean Penn — were nominated, though newcomer Chase Infiniti was left out in best actress.

In those two top nominees, the film academy put its full force behind a pair of visceral and bracingly original American epics that each connected with a fraught national moment. Coogler's Jim Crow-era film — the rare horror movie to win the academy's favor — conjures a mythical allegory



Leonardo DiCaprio in "One Battle After Another." WARNER BROS. PICTURES/TNS

of Black life. In "One Battle After Another," a dormant spirit of rebellion is revived in an out-of-control police state.

Both are also Warner Bros. titles. In the midst of a contentious sale to Netflix, the 102-year-old studio had its best Oscar nominations morning ever, with 33 total nods. In a memo to Warner Bros. Discovery employees, David Zaslav, chief executive, called it "a golden moment for our company." As the fate of Warner Bros., which Netflix is buying for \$72 billion, hangs in the balance amid a challenge from Paramount Skydance, Hollywood is bracing for potentially the largest realignment in the film indus-

try's history.

For Coogler, the 39-year-old filmmaker of "Fruitvale Station" and "Black Panther," it was a crowning moment. One of Hollywood's most esteemed yet humble filmmakers, Coogler has called "Sinners," a film that he will own outright 25 years after its release, his most personal movie.

"I wrote this script for my uncle who passed away 11 years ago," Coogler said in an interview Thursday morning. "I got to imagine that he's listening to some blues music right now to celebrate."

Reached by phone an hour after the nominations

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INSIDE Snubs and surprises in nominations

The lack of widely expected Oscar nominees Ariana Grande and Paul Mescal were among the most shocking snubs. A9

A look at complete list nominations

Get the whole list of announced Oscar nominations. A9

SWITZERLAND

President's new Board of Peace gets Davos debut

Many U.S. allies decide against joining effort to rebuild Gaza

By Josh Boak, Amer Madhani and Will Weissert
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVOS, Switzerland — President Donald Trump on Thursday inaugurated his Board of Peace to lead efforts at maintaining a ceasefire in Israel's war with Hamas, insisting that "everyone wants to be a part" of the body he said could eventually rival the United Nations — despite many U.S. allies opting not to participate.



Trump

In a speech at the World Economic Forum, Trump sought to create momentum for a project to map out a future of the war-torn Gaza Strip that has been overshadowed this week, first by his threats to seize Greenland, then by a dramatic retreat from that push.

"This isn't the United States, this is for the world," he said, adding, "I think we can spread it out to other things as we succeed in Gaza."

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RIVERSIDE

Erika Kirk calls for a Christian revival in U.S.

Widow of slain conservative activist starts Make Heaven Crowded Tour

By Madison Hart
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Erika Kirk launched a national tour in Riverside to honor the memory of her husband — slain media personality Charlie Kirk — while spreading the word of God, the power of prayer and calling for a Christian revival in the U.S.

The audience of thousands gathered Wednesday night at Harvest Christian Fellowship and greeted Kirk with a standing ovation. Some shouted their love for her.

It was the first night of the Make Heaven Crowded Tour 2026, which is set to visit more than 30 cities between now and the year's end. The event, which was livestreamed to Harvest churches in Irvine and Hawaii, headed to San Diego on Thursday.

"This tour is so special to me because I wanted ...

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Erika Kirk, the widow of slain conservative media personality Charlie Kirk, speaks Wednesday during the first Make Heaven Crowded Tour 2026 stop at Harvest Christian Fellowship in Riverside. TERRY PIERSON STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

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