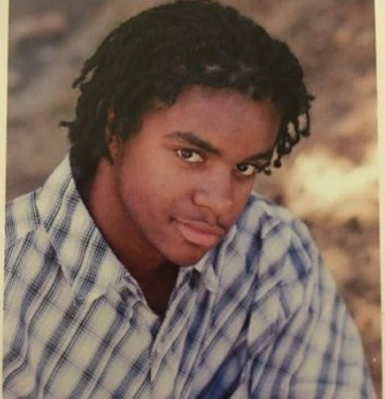


El Sobrante: Forum on hate crimes, intimidation set

Bringing residents, politicians, activists together in wake of shooting death of young man



William Sims, 28, of El Sobrante was killed by a group of white men, in what prosecutors say was a hate crime.(Courtesy of the Sims family)

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EL SOBRANTE— A month after the shocking murder of a young African-American man at an El Sobrante pool hall by a group of white men, an incident prosecutors have called a hate crime, local organizations are planning a forum to address intimidation and harassment in West Contra Costa.

The forum will be held 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 10 at the Boys and Girls Club of El Sobrante, 4660 Appian Way.

Topics will include hate crimes, intimidation and harassment, and fear of deportation, say organizers.

Event participants include the California Attorney General's Office, Contra Costa Supervisor John Gioia, the American Civil Liberties Union, the Contra Costa Public Defender's Office and California Assemblymember Tony Thurmond, among others.

The event is a chance for residents to voice their thoughts and concerns following a divisive election and the murder of William Sims. The 28-year-old El Sobrante musician was beaten, robbed and then shot as he ran for his life on Nov. 12. One suspect has been charged in the crime, but two others remain outstanding.