

LUCK MEDIA & MARKETING, INC.

NOHO Lofts Suite 106, 5355 Cartwright Ave • N. Hollywood, CA 91601 • (818)760-8077 • Fax (818)760-7399 • info@luckmedia.c

Steve Levesque
President

Tasya Swisko
Acct Executive

Luckmedia.com
Jen Onsum
Online Publicity

Chrissy Sutphin
Acct Executive

Krysten Kabzenell
Publicist

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SFGate

Bay Area Rapper Sara Mestas ('Mo Wiley') Switches Beats and Prepares to Announce Her Candidacy for Mayor of San Leandro, California

The unstoppable rap artist, political activist and mother of three, **Sara Mestas** (known to her music fans as **Mo Wiley**) prepares to conquer her next challenge: campaigning for Mayor of her hometown, **San Leandro, California**.

A press conference will be held on **Tuesday, May 25 at 10 a.m.** in front of **San Leandro City Hall** (835 East 14th St.), where she will officially announce her candidacy for Mayor.

In the upcoming **November 9** election, she will be running against incumbent **Tony Santos**, longtime city council member **Joyce Starosciak** and longtime school board member **Steve Cassidy**.

An agile political activist who has been a tenant's member on the city's **Rent Review Board** since last December, and on **Alameda County's Community Action Board**, Mestas recently formed the campaign committee, **Community & Parents for Democracy, Sara Mestas for Mayor**.

Mestas continues to prove she's ready for some '**Major League Ballin**' (also the title of her debut album on **First Kut Records**) and is fashioning herself as the unconventional, break-the-mold "**Robin Hood**" candidate, the working-class champion of the average taxpayer daring to take on the long entrenched "good old boy" administration that's in place by exercising her right to run for office. Relating to regular Americans in her community who have, like her, struggled to survive in the current down economy, she aims to give people hope that one's past does not disqualify them from their future.

Mestas was recently hired by California PAL as the Mentoring Program Coordinator for a \$26,842 grant from the Department of Justice to develop a mentoring program for San Leandro youth. She's also responsible for bringing the **San Leandro Junior Giants Baseball League to San Leandro**, which allows kids to play for free; she secured the sponsorship from the **San Francisco Giants** major league team. She has also secured sponsorship for the program from **Round Table Pizza, Litvinchuck Realty, Walmart** and **The Northface**.

On May 12, 2010, Mestas began to incorporate **Forever Leading Youth**, or FLY as the youth named it. It is a company that will employ young people from 14-24 first.

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