

POMONA BULLETIN

WHERE DID THE
STREET
VENDORS
GO?

BUILDING A
STRONGER
POMONA

GINZA
VS.
JINZA

WHO IS GOING
TO FIX
POMONA?



 thepomonabulletin



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THEPOMONABULLETIN.COM

Pomona Changed My Life, and Here's How We Can Change It Together

I have to be honest about something. For 24 years, I lived in Pomona. I even owned a business in Pomona. But for much of that time, I wasn't truly connected to the city. Sure, I occasionally supported local restaurants, got my hair cut here now and then, but I didn't explore all that Pomona had to offer. I rarely attended community events or worked with local non-profits. I wasn't engaged, and in many ways, I turned my back on the city I called home. Sometimes, I even told people I lived in Claremont when asked where I lived.

Then, everything changed during COVID. In the middle of the pandemic, Pomona showed up for me and my family in a way I never expected. My daughter turned eight on April 16, 2020. We were locked down, unable to celebrate her birthday the way we normally would. On a whim, I asked the city to help organize a drive-by birthday celebration. To my astonishment, Pomona showed up in force! The mayor, the Police Department, the Fire Department, and so many neighbors—many of whom I hadn't even met despite living on the same street for years—came together to make my daughter's birthday unforgettable.

That moment changed everything. The city I had distanced myself from for so long embraced me and my family with open arms. I realized how much I had been missing and decided it was time to show up for Pomona the way it had shown up for me.

I made a commitment to support Pomona businesses more intentionally. It wasn't just about spending money locally; it was about connecting with the community and recognizing the value of what we have here. Over the past few years, I've seen firsthand how much Pomona businesses and their owners care about their work and their city. Many have deep roots here, raising their families and contributing to our community's strength. These businesses stuck around and persevered through hard times, and they deserve our respect and support.

Since 2020, I've joined local service groups, created the Shop Pomona rewards card, gotten involved in Pomona politics, and launched this magazine. The Pomona Bulletin Facebook page is now the fastest-growing Pomona-related page on the platform, and our Instagram community is growing as well. All of this stems from one goal: to be part of the solution and help make Pomona an amazing and safe place to live and do business.

This magazine is my love letter to Pomona. Every month, we aim to highlight the best the city has to offer. We want to celebrate the resilience, creativity, and warmth of our community. But we can't do it alone. We need your help.

I challenge you to make the next year about supporting Pomona. Visit more local shops. Buy your flowers from a Pomona florist. Fill up your gas tank at a Pomona station. Grocery shop here. Join a gym in town. Every dollar you spend in Pomona helps strengthen our community and supports your neighbors. Together, we can make Pomona the jewel of the valley once more.

If you know of a non-profit or business we should highlight, we want to hear from you! Reach out to us on our Facebook or Instagram pages and share your suggestions. Let's work together to make Pomona the vibrant, thriving community it's meant to be.

Thank you for joining me on this journey. Let's show up for Pomona the way it shows up for us—every day.

Mitchell Stein
REALTOR®




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Why Join a Service Group



Why Joining a Service Group is a Smart Move for residents of Pomona. In today's fast-paced world, many individuals seek ways to connect with their communities, make a difference, and find fulfillment. For residents of Pomona, CA, one powerful avenue to achieve this is by joining a local service group. These organizations, often focused on charitable or community-oriented initiatives, offer numerous benefits that extend beyond personal satisfaction.

Making a Lasting Impact on Pomona

Service groups are a direct pathway to addressing pressing issues in Pomona. By joining forces with like-minded individuals, you can contribute to meaningful causes that improve lives and create a ripple effect of positive change. Groups like Kiwanis built a Park in Pomona. Rotary gives away scholarships to Pomona students, and Lions have been helping people see better for over 100 years. Whether it's organizing food drives, beautifying public spaces like Ganesha Park, or mentoring at-risk youth, service groups tackle real-world problems that affect our city.

Expanding Your Network

Pomona's service groups are a hub for connecting with others who share your values and goals. These relationships can lead to lifelong friendships and even open doors professionally. Networking within a service group often brings together individuals from diverse backgrounds, creating opportunities for collaboration and mentorship. We always say at The Pomona Bulletin if you want to see change, make the change happen.

Learning and Teaching

Another key benefit of joining a service group is the chance to exchange knowledge. Members come from varied walks of life, bringing unique perspectives and expertise. This environment fosters mutual learning while providing opportunities to share your own skills to help others.

Setting a Positive Example

Joining a service group sends a powerful message to those around you, particularly family members. I know for me being involved in community service has shown my kids the importance of giving back and being part of something bigger than themselves. By participating, you become a role model, inspiring others to contribute and take pride in their community.



Mental and Emotional Benefits

I know for me this is a big one! Volunteering has been proven to reduce stress and boost my overall well-being. I have a new group of friends and have met some amazing people in Pomona. Knowing I am part of the solution and not the problem keeps me "zen" in times of turmoil. It was Mother Teresa that said "Love cannot remain by itself – it has no meaning. Love has to be put into action and that action is service

Advocacy and Leadership Opportunities

Service groups in Pomona also offer a platform to champion causes close to your heart. Whether you're passionate about education, environmental conservation, or social justice, these organizations provide a structured way to advocate for change. Leadership roles within these groups further amplify your ability to make a difference while enhancing your own capabilities.

So if you want to help build a better Pomona please join one of these service organizations





Kiwanis International support kids through health, education, and youth leadership, creating lasting impacts from infancy to adulthood. Make a difference for kids! Join your local Kiwanis club and team up with volunteers to change lives. Thousands of clubs, endless traditions—find yours today!

- 184 West 3rd Street, Pomona, CA 91766
- 305 E. Holt Ave., United States, Pomona, CA 91767



Scan the QR code to join.



The Pomona Lions Club has served our community for over 100 years, supporting local causes like homelessness, literacy, vision care, and food aid. Globally, we assist with disaster relief, helping rebuild lives after natural disasters.

- Pomona Host Lions Club P.O. Box 3085 Pomona, CA 91769



Scan the QR code to join.



The Fraternal Order of Eagles offers a free first-year membership to active/retired Law Enforcement, Firefighters, EMTs, Correctional Officers, Active Military, Volunteer Firefighters/EMTs, and Honorably Discharged Military. We support our heroes through the F.O.E. Memorial Foundation and fund vital health research via our Charity Foundation.

- 954 W. Mission Blvd. , Pomona, CA
- 909-622-9160



Scan the QR code to join.



Rotary International is a global volunteer organization of 1.2 million leaders dedicated to humanitarian service, goodwill, and peace. Founded by Paul P. Harris in 1905, the Rotary Club of Chicago brought together professionals to exchange ideas and form lasting friendships.

- 740 N. Garey Ave., Pomona, CA
- (909) 941-3769



Scan the QR code to join.



OPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL champions local businesses, fosters community growth, and promotes our "City On The Move." We connect, advocate, and drive progress for a thriving Pomona.

- info@pomonachamber.org
- (909) 622-1256
- 320 S. Thomas Street, Pomona, CA 91766



Scan the QR code to join.



Pomona Valley Pride offers programs to support and connect the LGBTQIA+ community, including workshops, support groups, social events, and educational initiatives. Together, we foster belonging and help our community thrive!

- 235 W Mission Boulevard, Pomona, CA 91766



Scan the QR code to join.



City of Pomona

2025 February Events Calendar



FEBRUARY 01, 2025

Kiwanis Bunco at Tony's Beefdip

Pre-buy Tickets \$35 at Door \$40

For more info, call (909) 206-4399

FEBRUARY 02, 2025

Tours With The HSPV

One hour tours of the Palomares Adobe

1pm and 4pm! Tickets are only \$5 per person.

Reserve your spot now at PomonaHistorical.org

For more info, call (909) 623-2198

FEBRUARY 02, 2025

Mini Pinata Making Workshop

252 S Main St D, Pomona Start at 12PM

For more info, call (909) 632-7785

FEBRUARY 04, 2025

Community Pull UP

Martin Luther King Park

800 W Lexington Ave, Pomona CA 91766

This is a free monthly community resource

For more info, call (909) 846-8362

FEBRUARY 05, 2025

Ultimate Frisbee

Tickets \$20 Pomona Residents and

\$30 Non-Residents at Palomares Park

For more info, call (909) 802-7730

FEBRUARY 06, 2025

**College, Career & Workforce
Development Taskforce Committee**

For more info, call (909) 622-1256

FEBRUARY 15, 2025

Lions Bingo Event

1751 N Park Ave. Starts at noon

For more info, call (909) 206-4399

FEBRUARY 16, 2025

Tours With The HSPV

One hour tours of the Phillips Mansion

2pm and 4pm! Tickets are only \$15 per person.

Reserve your spot now at PomonaHistorical.org

For more info, call (909) 623-2198

FEBRUARY 18, 2025

Legislative Affairs Committee Meeting

For more info, call (909) 622-1256

FEBRUARY 20, 2025

Economic Development Committee Meeting

Pomona Chamber Office 320 S. Thomas Street

Downtown Pomona, CA 91766 United

For more info, call (909) 622-1256

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Black History Month - Grill & Chill

Martin Luther King Park - 1pm-6pm

800 W Lexington Ave, Pomona CA 91766

email us at info@projecthopeca.org

For more info, call (909) 846-8362

FEBRUARY 23, 2025

Tours With The HSPV

Half hour tours of the Casa Primera

2pm and 4pm! Tickets are only \$5 per person.

Reserve your spot now at PomonaHistorical.org

For more info, call (909) 623-2198



Dates and Details are subject to change. New Events are added to our Facebook and Instagram often.

To advertise your community event for FREE! Email information to nico@steinteamrealty.com or post on our Facebook page



Jinza vs. Ginza: The Great Teriyaki Showdown in Pomona!



Recently, I've made it my mission to explore Pomona's food scene by trying out new restaurants every week. One day, I stopped by **Ginza Bowl** on Holt and was blown away. Their teriyaki combo bowl—chicken, beef, and shrimp—was cooked fresh, served hot, and totally hit the spot!

Fast forward a couple of days, and I found myself at Chapo Hats on Indian Hill, hunting for gifts. Naturally, I popped into the barber shop next door, El Punto, for a quick haircut. While chatting with the stylist about my upcoming article for The Pomona Bulletin, she paused and asked, "Wait, Ginza with a G or Jinza with a J? Because **Jinza** is way better!"

Before I could answer, the guy in the next chair chimed in, "No way, Ginza with a G is the best!" Suddenly, the whole barbershop was buzzing, and it felt like a scene straight out of a sitcom. Instead of debating politics or sports, everyone was passionately arguing about teriyaki bowls!

That's when I realized two things:

1. Living in Pomona is awesome.
2. I had to do a deep dive into this **Ginza vs. Jinza rivalry**.

I took it to The Pomona Bulletin's Facebook page, and hundreds chimed in. The love for Ginza and Jinza was clear, but there was no winner. Then came a curveball: Kwon's. Suddenly, it was a three-way teriyaki showdown.

My family and I dove in to try them all. The verdict? All three are delicious, each with its own twist. We're now a house divided, but one thing's clear—Pomona's teriyaki game is strong.

The only downside? They all serve Pepsi. As a Diet Coke addict, I felt personally attacked. Still, a perfect teriyaki bowl makes up for it.

Check out the breakdown and deals below, then give them a try. Are you **Team Ginza**, **Team Jinza**, or **Team Kwon's**? Let us know!

The Showdown: Teriyaki Breakdown

1. **Ginza Bowl** | 4.5 stars on Google

- **Known for:** Generous portions, freshly cooked teriyaki bowls, and a surprisingly good burger menu.
- Family-owned and popular with employees of local businesses and loyal regulars.
- Limited seating, but I've always found a spot easily.
 - 1495 W Holt Ave, Pomona, CA 91768. Closed Sundays. Drive-thru available.

2. **Jinza Teriyaki** | 4.5 stars on Google

- **Known for:** Flavorful teriyaki, tacos, and even breakfast!
- John, the friendly owner, works the front and is known for giving back to the community.
- Tons of seating, but it gets packed during lunch, especially with Cal Poly students.
 - 3425 Pomona Blvd, Pomona, CA 91768. Closed Saturdays and Sundays. Offers meal prep and catering services. Online ordering available via jinzateriyaki.com for pick-up or delivery.

3. **Kwon's** | 4.4 stars on Google

- **Known for:** Hearty portions—perfect for sharing or taking leftovers home.
- Tons of positive reviews about their fried rice.
- Seating is very limited and a bit awkward, but it works! Popular with the Stizzy crowd next door.
 - 1626 W Holt Ave, Pomona, CA 91768. Closed Sundays. Online ordering available for pick-up or delivery through Google.

The Verdict

Each spot has its unique charm, and all three are worth a visit. Whether you're into drive-thru convenience, friendly community vibes, or massive portions, Pomona's teriyaki scene has you covered. P.S. Yes, they all serve Pepsi. And yes, as a Diet Coke addict, I'm coping. Mitch Stein

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Supporting Street Vendors in Pomona: A Resident's Perspective



As a long-time resident of Pomona, I have witnessed our city evolve in countless ways. From its vibrant cultural festivals to its tight-knit neighborhoods, Pomona thrives on diversity and community spirit. One aspect of our city's charm that stands out is our street vendors. These hardworking individuals bring life to our sidewalks, offering everything from delicious tacos to handmade crafts.

However, recent regulations have it harder for them to operate, and while I understand the city's concerns, I firmly believe that street vending should be allowed with proper oversight.



The Importance of Street Vendors

Street vendors aren't just small business owners—they're part of Pomona's culture. For many, grabbing a quick snack from a vendor is part of everyday life. They offer affordable meals and unique goods, often supporting working-class families who can't always visit traditional restaurants or stores.

Vending also opens doors for immigrants and low-income individuals to start businesses, support their families, and strengthen the local economy. When we back them, we're upholding the hard work and resilience that make Pomona special.



@909openmarket

The Need for Oversight

Safety concerns are real. Blocked sidewalks, food handling issues, and tragedies like the 2022 fatal accident near a vending area highlight the need for better regulation. But banning vendors isn't the answer. Instead, we should create systems that let them work safely and legally—balancing safety with opportunity.



@909Tacolandia

A Balanced Approach

Pomona can balance support for vendors and safety concerns with a few key steps:

- **Simplify Permits:** Cut through red tape and lower fees to make permits accessible and encourage compliance.
- **Designate Vending Zones:** Create safe, open spaces for vending to avoid sidewalk congestion.
- **Educate Vendors:** Offer workshops on food safety, permits, and business skills to set vendors up for success.
- **Fair Inspections:** Regular checks can ensure rules are followed without feeling punitive, fostering collaboration.

Thriving Spaces for Vendors

Street vendors are thriving in places where safety and structure come together:

- **909 Tacolandia:** At 1444 E. Holt Ave., this weekend hotspot offers a vendor-friendly space away from traffic.
- **909 Open Market:** Held Thursdays and the third Saturday of each month at 2201 N. White Ave., this market is safe, organized, and welcoming.

Both spots ensure permits are in place and provide free entry and parking, making them accessible to all.

Preserving Pomona's Character

Street vending is part of what makes Pomona special—its culture, diversity, and entrepreneurial drive. Thoughtful policies and community support can help vendors thrive without sacrificing safety. By working together, we can keep this vibrant part of our city alive and well.



The Mindful Advocate

Mindfulness with a Purpose



Boasting a population of almost 152,000 (According to the 2020 US Census Bureau), one need only to lift their eyes from the gaze in front of them to take in the rich cultural diversity that is Pomona, CA. With nearly 79% of the population proudly claiming a race other than simply the

dominant culture in the US, you have found yourself in this beautiful Los Angeles suburb.

Deeply rooted within this city are the approximately 10,600 members of the Black and African American community, all who affectionately call Pomona their home. Many of whom in addition to residing here also have their place of work, find their education, and own businesses in some of the most popular locations in town.

The Library of Congress reminds us that 39 years ago Congress passed Public Law 99-244 designating February as “National Black (Afro-American) History Month”, marking the beginning of the sixtieth annual public and private salute to Black History. In 1996 President Clinton issued Presidential Proclamation renaming the month “National African American History Month.” Their encouragement to all is to celebrate in ways that would honor the many contributions made by members of the Black community to the areas of science, legislation, art, culture, and many others positively impacting the lives of all Americans.

Celebrating the many positive achievements is not the only way to commemorate the work of our neighbors, friends, family members, politicians, educators, public servants, and community business owners. Not to be restricted to one month each year, but an everyday act, is to honor the struggle and the plight of the Black and African Americans who fought to end slavery and still do fight to end systemic racism and political denigration. We have a very long way to go in our country.

There are many ways to honor the memory of strong folks we have lost to this struggle, and those here with us today who we engage and interact with each day. Become a patron of the many Black and African American owned businesses, visit and learn at the African American Museum of Beginnings, and become a sponsor or donor of one or more of the many non-profit organizations in Pomona led by the Black community and supporting all who enter their doors.

Community Resident and local advocate, Chara Nicole Swodeck, one of the Founding members of the African American Advisory Alliance (pomona4as.com) will help you navigate the many ways to create and find opportunities for growth. Swodeck proudly supports the AAAA mission to take immediate action for racial reconciliation, equality and justice; and to create strategic plans for long-term opportunities and advancement for our Black residents in Pomona.

Supporting our Pomona educators, the Pomona Alliance of Black School Educators (pabse.org), in alignment with the National Alliance of Black School Educators, strives to decrease the disparity in the educational achievement gap among all of the subgroups, especially those students of African descent. PABSE works not only with the schools and educators, but involves the whole family and community in supporting and recognizing the achievements of our Black students and educators. Partnering with in order to make a stronger world for one another.

Serving Together,
Brian S. Symonds, M.Div.



Check out the following list of just a few of the many businesses and non-profits you can enjoy today and then make part of your on-going community involvement.



African American Advisory Alliance

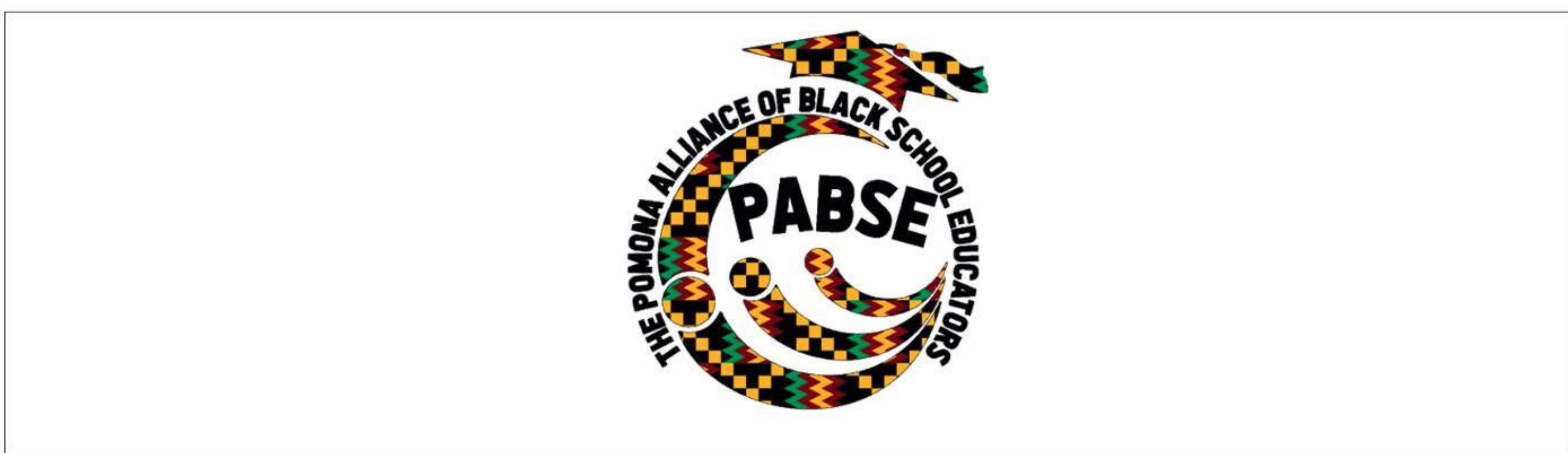
- Alliance Community Cultural Center
- pomona4as.com
- 406 W. 2nd St. Pomona, CA 91766



Museum of African American Beginnings

- 1460 E. Holt Ave Ste. 188 Pomona, California, 91767

Mon/Tue/Fri by appt
Wed/Thur/Sat 12pm-6pm



National Alliance of Black School Educators

- pabse.org
- 800 S. Garey Ave Pomona Ca 91701



West Coast Barber Shop

- 1191 S. Garey Ave. #B Pomona, CA 91766



J&J's BBQ & Fish

- 751 Indian Hill Boulevard Pomona, CA 91767



Berri's – The Healthy Hair Bar & Supply

- 2252 S. Gary St. Pomona, CA 91766



Da Mood Salon

- 205 E. Mission Blvd. Pomona, CA 91766

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