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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

San Diego Urban League, Inc.
4261 Market Street
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One of the highlights of the Membership Drive of the San Diego Urban League was the presentation of a check from the Phi Omicron Chapter, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Incorporated for the purchase of a Life Membership. Mr. Henry H. Hill, Vice Basileus of the San Diego Chapter, presented the $500.00 check to Mr. John E. Jacob, Executive Director of the San Diego Urban League.

Mr. Vernon E. Jordan, Jr., Executive Director of the National Urban League, recently dealt with black sororities and fraternities in the well-known column "To Be Equal". He stated that these organizations came into being, just as other important black institutions were born, as a response to the rejection of white society. The refusal of white fraternities to admit black people to membership, led at the turn of the century, to the establishment of black organizations.

"While most white fraternities became little more than beer halls and social outlets, the major black fraternities and sororities nurtured the talents and capablities of their membership and inaugurated important programs to help black people."

San Diego has chapters of the Alpha Kappa Alphas, a 40,000 member sorority whose last National Convention was devoted to ways of bringing about social change. Alpha Kappa Alpha was founded over 60 years ago. Its chapters run a number of impressive programs ranging from job-training for girls to scholarship aid to encouraging black pride.

Another important sorority Delta Sigma Theta, started by 20 black suffragettes at Howard in 1913, is also dominated by the theme of

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public service. It runs programs designed to inspire teenagers to enter careers, teach literacy to young adults, rehabilitate women prisoners, develop minority business and housing opportunities, and it also runs scholarship and fellowship programs.

Omega Psi Phi is deeply involved in "socially responsible projects that speak to the aspirations, hopes and skills of black people across the Nation. It focuses on drug prevention, encouragement of black students and grass-roots leadership." It was founded in 1911 at Howard University and currently has over 300 graduate and undergraduate chapters.

Some members of the local chapter include Urulee Watson, Basileus and a Marine Corps Captain; Dr. Edwin B. Fuller, orthopedic surgeon; Mr. John Arington, Educator; Mr. Leon Sutton, Businessman; Dr. Clifford Stallings, United State International University; Lt. Colonel W. T. Powell, United States Army; Lt. Lewis Witherspoon, U.S. Navy; Mr. Joseph McQuire, Consultant; Mr. Edward McGee, Post Office; Mr. Thomas McPhatter, San Diego Urban League OJT Project Director; Mr. Stephen Whatley, NELC; Mr. John L. Washington, Student; Mr. Leonard Jones, Businessman, Law Student; Mr. Maurice Daniels, Student; Mr. George Henton, Student.