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The Black Economic Development Task Force, Inc.

President's Letter

San Diego Chapter June 1991

Hello,

Over the last four years the Black Economic Development Task Force, Inc., has worked diligently to advance the cause of economic development for African Americans in San Diego County. This is our first newsletter to share with you some of our trials and triumphs. We want to communicate to you what is happening in the economic community and keep you informed about the daily activities the Task Force is involved in. Since we are an entirely volunteer organization, I hope you can appreciate our dedication to these efforts. Our accomplishements so far include the following:

• **Minority Business at the Airport** - The Task Force, along with the Urban League, Catfish Club, NAACP, the Black American Political Action Committee (BAPAC) and Black Federation, initiated and spearheaded the successful yearlong campaign to get minority businesses at the Airport and to prevent Host International from receiving automatic extension of their exclusive contract. These Black organizations joined with the Asain, Hispanic, Native American and women communities and formed a coalition that wrote a proposal with 21 recommendations that were adopted by the Port Commission. The FAA has specific requirements for disadvantaged business enterprise participation for concession services. The significance of this effort will be the first time ever that minority businesses will be able to do business at the Airport.

• **Super Bowl Supported** - We tackled the issue of the Super Bowl coming to San Diego.The Task Force, along with the Catfish Club and Urban League led the fight to convince the Super Bowl Task Force and the Chamber of Commerce to participate in an economic program that will put minority businesses in place to benefit from the Super Bowl and other special events. We need to acknowledge that even though we didn't get the Super Bowl, this was still worthwhile.

• **Minority Enterprise Small Business Investment Company (MESBIC)** - We are spearheading the drive to form a venture capital firm that will provide at least $8 million of capital to minority owned buinesses. $2 million would come from private sources and $6 million from the Small Business Administration. This enterprise will be a conduit for the educational and economic revitalization of Southeast San Diego by putting money into new and existing businesses.

• **Communities United For Economic Justice** - We helped to form a coalition consisting of the African American, Asian, Hispanic and Native American communities to address common economic issues.

• **City Water Program** - The Task Force met with the staffs of the City Council members to sensitize them to the need for minority business enterprise participation in the County's $3 billion building and purchasing program that will run over the next 10 years. Prior to our involvement, the city water authority did not have an af-

firmative action program. This is the largest public works program ever by the city to implement the minority and women business enterprise programs.

•**Economic Summits** - We have sponsored three very successful economic Summits which bring black business enterprises together with corporate and governmental representatives. The last two had several workshops, seminars and a vendor fair.

These are some examples of the work and activities we are doing daily. However, our most important function is to exist as an organization that will provide a strong voice to speak out for economic progress for African Americans and other people of color. Take a look inside to read more on what the Task Force is accomplishing through its growing membership.

Sincerely,

Harold K. Brown

1991 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

For 1991, the Task Force will concentrate on creating a voice of influence on economic matters that are affecting the black population and other minorities.

Jan-Mar Supported the 1993 Super Bowl coming to San Diego. Arranged meetings through Southeast San Diego to establish a Round Table of Black Leaders to address the issue of a tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Outcome of the meeting was a majority agreement of some dozen leaders who acknowledged that the most fitting tribute to Dr. King's memory is educational and economic empowerment and not symbols.

Feb 24 Article entitled "Task Force Nurtures Black-owned Firm" appeared in the San Diego Union highlighting the efforts of the Task Force and several minority owned businesses. Featured were the owners of Cynthia's Gifts and Blooming Beauties and the owner of failed ICR Tracking Sciences and his start-up company, Compliance Management.

Mar 11 General membership meeting of the Task Force. Guest speaker was Mr. Bob Payne, owner of the Doubletree Hotel, President of Mission Valley Associates, co-owner of the San Diego Padres Baseball Team and Chairman, San Diego Super Bowl Task Force. He addressed a capacity crowd about the complexities surrounding soliciting the NFL to select San Diego for the 1993 Super Bowl.

Mar 18 Convened a press conference of a Round Table of Black Leaders to put the controversy regarding a suitable tribute for Dr. King and acceptance of Linear Park as a compromise tribute to bed. Some 14 Black leaders were represented including the Greater Southeast Town Council, NAACP, Metropolitan Fellowship Foundation, North Island Black Association, the Black Federation, Urban League, and the Rainbow Coalition among others. Media representatives from TV stations KFMB 8, KGTV 10, KUSI 51, and KTTY 69, the San Diego Union, San Diego Tribune, the San Diego Monitor News, and San Diego Voice and Viewpoint newspapers were present. In addition, representatives from Councilman Pratt's and the Mayor's offices were present. The press conference also endorsed the 1993 Super Bowl coming to San Diego.

Mar 18, 19 Participated in the planning and formation

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

We are asking for your help. Will you help us keep the fight alive by becoming a member? Simply complete the enclosed form and mail it today along with your membership dues.

NAME_____ **HOME. ADD.**_____

HOME.CITY_____ **HOME.PHONE**_____

EMPLOYER_____ **DAY.PHONE**_____

TODAY'S DATE _____

MEMBERSHIP TYPE:

___	**ACTIVE INDIVIDUAL**	**$25**
___	**SUSTAINING INDIVIDUAL**	**$50**
___	**SUSTAINING ORGANIZATION**	**$100**
___	**SUSTAINING CORPORATE**	**$500**

PLEASE **mail your application and check to Black Economic Development Task Force, Inc.**
P.O. Box 12441
San Diego, CA 92112-2441

Make check payable to BEDTF

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