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THE BLACK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE OF SAN DIEGO, INC.

THE BLACK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE OF SAN DIEGO was established in May of 1987. It was an outgrowth of the Black Community Conference held a month earlier, whose goals were to set in motion specific strategies to promote well-being in several sectors of Black life. The Economic Development workshop of that conference—after hours of brainstorming—identified and prioritized a set of economic issues for Blacks in San Diego County. At the end of this session, the participants of the workshop had produced a mission statement which was to be adopted by the **Task Force**:

> **Our mission is to create an environment of economic opportunities whereby African American San Diegans can become more self-reliant and economically productive, with an emphasis on Southeast San Diego becoming a place where people want to live, invest, and find African American owned businesses that provide a high quality of goods and services.**

Those members in attendance who later formed the **Task Force** understood that Southeast San Diego, with its diverse ethnic population, needs coalescing. The **Task Force** has continued to encourage people to join in the effort to accomplish its mission.

Since its inception, the **Task Force** has been successful in:

- acting as an advocate in addressing a number of economic issues of concern to the African American community.
- helping to form a coalition of African American advocacy organizations to address economic issues.
- creating an annual Black Economic Summit.
- establishing a Black Community Development Fund.
- sponsoring a conference for minority entrepreneurs.
- producing a community economic conference titled, "1988—The Year of Individual and Collective Action".
- forming an investment club.
- sponsoring a series of ongoing community educational presentations on issues related to economic development, including seminars on capital formation, personal financial planning and others.
- sponsoring the San Diego premier showing of the anti-drug movie "The White Girl", produced by Tony Brown.
- gaining the ear of the community and the media.
- attracting a sophisticated and dynamic membership dedicated to accomplishing its goals.
- raising the consciousness level of San Diegans regarding the lack of capital for the ethnic communities.

The success of the **Task Force** thus far confirms the projections that there are hundreds of African Americans and members of other ethnic groups who could be making significant contributions in the area of economic development through small and large business ventures, and effective personal investment strategies. The **Task Force** intends to continue functioning as a principal agent in helping San Diego's African American Community realize its economic potential.