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BLACK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE, INC.
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February 2, 1994

Subject: Progress Report For The San Diego Community Economic Development & Research Center

Grant Objectives:

1. Initially our objective was to form a center for Black economic development and research. This objective has been changed to be more inclusive and not limited to just the Black population. Our objective now is to form a center for community economic development, therefore, reaching out to all the people residing in a given community. That was the reason for changing the center's name to the Community Economic Development and Research Center.

2. To develop education programs that promote economic development in the communities we serve.

3. To develop programs that make capital more accessible to the communities we serve.

4. To conduct research activities that produce economic education about the communities we serve.

5. To develop a center that is self sufficient.

Our first objective stated above has been achieved. The Center has been formed. We expect that the remaining objectives, except for number 5, will be completed by the end of the grant period. Objective number 5 will take longer to develop incoming producing projects that will fund the operations of the Center.

Staff:

Since our last report we have recruited and hired three permanent full time employees to staff the Center. Two were hired from the City's grant and one from the Irvine grant. We felt that it was in the best interests of the Center and the Task Force at this point to hire a person to coordinate the programs of the Center under the supervision of Harold Brown, the Task Force President. Mr. Brown's leave of absence from the Board of Directors expired on December 31, 1993, and he has resumed his membership on the Board.. He has agreed to continue acting as the director and conduct the training of the staff. He is not a member of the staff and he does not receive any monetary compensation.

To coordinate the activities of the Center, we have hired an assistant director who reports to Mr. Brown, the Task Force President. We have two administrative assistants, one is responsible for coordinating the programs under the City's grant, the other is responsible for the Center's clerical support. The administrative assistants began January 1, 1994. This is the first time we have had full time clerical support. We finally have a full time staff in place along with a part time research staff. The start up funds from the Irvine Foundation has enabled us to secure other grant funding to put this staff in place.

Center Staff:

Director (Acting and non-paid)	Harold K. Brown
Assistant Director	Beverly Randolph
Administrative Assistant (Administration)	Lillian Hines
Administrative Assistant (Clerical Support)	Cymel Cavalier
Research Consultant (Part-Time)	Dr. JoAnne Cornwell
Research Assistant (Part-Time)	Dennard K. Clendenin

Research:

Our research team, since our last progress report, has completed the work on the business directory. We are presently waiting for bids to come in for the printing of the directory. We will forward a copy to you when they are printed.

The research team has devised a strategy to get surveys into the hands of a large number of people throughout San Diego county and to obtain a return on that distribution that will far exceed the normal accepted level of 3%. A report on our first survey is near

completion and a copy will be forwarded to you. The team's current project revolves around an African American consumer survey. The research team has developed a mission statement and is in the process of designing future projects.

We mentioned in our previous report that we would be forming a coalition to study the San Diego construction industry with relation to opportunities for ethnic minorities and women. This plan was aborted since the Mayor's office decided it wanted to hold meetings with the construction industry association. Since the mayor is playing the role we were going to take, it became unnecessary for us to continue.

Programs:

The Task Force continues to advocate for ethnic minorities and women on issues relating to economic development. It has been an active participant in improving the City's minority and women disadvantaged business enterprise program, was the organizer of the African American coalition that opened the doors to minority businesses at the San Diego airport and was the lead organization in the formation of the ethnic and women coalition on economic development issues. While the Task Force has the advocacy role, the Center identifies economic development issues in the community, develops strategies and a plan to implement them.

Business Assistance - The Center has been providing business assistance to clients who have business ideas or operate businesses, and want to discuss their ideas and problems with us. We meet with each client for a one hour session. Follow-up is done to the extent it is needed. This business counseling is extremely important to have available in this community. However, we do not have a staff person to assign to business counseling. Mr. Brown has been filling that role and will continue until we have a staff person who can be assigned those duties.

Business Education - We are in the process of putting together an extended number of seminars and workshops in business education. A list is attached. The Center is organizing a pool of business volunteers who will conduct these seminars and workshops. Our proposal requesting funds in this area was not approved. With staff in place we can now organize a curriculum beyond the occasional offerings of the past.

The community economic development courses that are being developed at San Diego State University in the College of Business Administration are not developed as yet. Therefore, the offering of community economic development seminars at the Center has

been delayed. It is expected that the seminars will begin during the spring semester. The Center and San Diego State University will jointly sponsor a certificate program in community economic development when the courses are developed. These courses will be offered at the Center and on San Diego State's campus.

Capital - As stated in our previous report, we were attempting to work with the churches to form a credit union. We have recently secured an agreement from San Diego's second largest African American church. It will join us in forming a community development credit union. We feel that our discussions with the largest African American church will result with it agreeing to also join us. The two will then solicit other churches. We are quite excited about this development and we hope this relationship will continue and grow.

We are still in the process of forming a Specialized Small Business Investment Company (SSBIC). The formation team is searching for a project coordinator, which I believe we have recently found. The City's grant which will fund this project will be received mid-February, at which time the project can move forward.

Membership -A membership drive to significantly increase our number of corporate and individual members began February 1, 1994. The development of the Center's physical facilities and staff took a great deal of time and effort to complete, therefore, our membership drive was delayed until now. With the recent election of the Board of Directors, we now have Board members who should be very helpful in bringing in new members.

Self Sufficiency - The goal of self sufficiency is still at the heart of our organization. We are determined to develop and implement the strategies to achieve this goal. Developing an income stream for the Center is central to our continued existence. Now that a staff is in place, we are able to strongly address this area. Creating a sizeable membership dues income stream is the first step.

Problems:

We can't say that there are any problems. We have some challenges facing us related to the programs we are trying to develop, but no specific problems. One big challenge that the Center faces is finding capital for the clients we see. Micro loans for businesses are greatly needed to complement the counseling we provide our clients.

Concluding Remarks:

During the past year, we feel that much has been accomplished at the Center. The development of a facility that the community is proud of, and has the potential to house some very important programs, we regard as a major accomplishment. The second major accomplishment is that we now have a staff and the necessary equipment in place. That staff and equipment will enable us to develop the programs that we had envisioned since 1987.

We are grateful to the James Irvine Foundation for giving us this start. Without the James Irvine Foundation's support, our dream of having an office and a facility to help facilitate community economic development would possibly still be only a dream. We are now poised to really develop programs that should have an impact on the development of the communities and the people who reside in them.

Please find enclosed a statement of income and expenses for the Center and the Task Force. Also enclosed are two newspaper articles, one on the Center's grand opening which appeared in the section's front page of the San Diego Union, San Diego's major daily newspaper; and the other was recently done on the Center and appeared in a major business newspaper.

Harold K. Brown

Harold K. Brown
President
Black Economic Development Task Force, Inc.

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Enclosures