[MS-0436.005.009.013]

MR. CHAIRMAN, COMMISSIONERS, MY NAME IS HAROLD BROWN AND I RESIDE IN THE DEL CERRO COMMUNITY OF SAN DIEGO. I AM PRIVILEGED TO OFFICALLY REPRESENT THE SAN DIEGO BRANCH OF THE N.A.A.C.P., THE CATFISH CLUB AND THE BLACK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE. I SERVE AS PRESIDENT OF THE ECONOMIC TASK FORCE. UNOFFICALLY I AM HERE TO REPRESENT THE MANY OTHER BLACK SAN DIEGANS WHO AGREE WITH AND SUPPORT THE POSITION OF THE THREE ORGANIZATIONS MENTIONED ABOVE.

LET ME HASTEN TO STATE THAT WE ARE NOT HERE TODAY TO MAKE A LOT OF FANCY SPEECHES. NOR ARE WE HERE TO MAKE A LOT OF NOISE OR ATTEMPT TO INTIMIDATE ANYONE, AS THOUGH WE WOULD BE PRESUMPTIOUS ENOUGH TO BELIEVE WE COULD ACCOMPLISH SUCH A THING.

WE ARE HERE SIMPLY TO EXPRESS OUR CONCERN REGARDING THE SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. AS WE HAVE EXPRESSED IN OUR LETTERS TO YOU, WE CONSIDER IT AN INSULT, AS MEMBERS OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY, THAT HISTORY REVEALS THAT ONLY A SHOE SHINE STAND HAS BEEN DEEMED WORTHY OF OCCUPYING SPACE AT THE AIRPORT AS A BLACK OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE. THIS INSULT IS COMPOUNDED BY THE ARROGANCE AND GREED OF THE MARRIOTT'S HOST INTERNATIONAL COMPANY. THERE IS NO ACCEPTABLE REASON, AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, FOR THIS SITUATION TO HAVE EXISTED FOR SO LONG. IN SPITE OF ATTEMPTS MADE BY BLACK ENTREPRENEURS, HOST INTERNATIONAL HAS KEPT THE DOOR TIGHTLY CLOSED TO SAN DIEGO'S BLACK POPULATION.

WE ARE CALLING UPON THE SAN DIEGO PORT COMMISSION TO CORRECT THIS DEPLORABLE CONDITION BY USING THE POWER OF THE COMMISSION TO ENSURE THAT OPPORTUNITIES TO DO BUSINESS AT THE AIRPORT ARE OPEN TO BLACKS, OTHER ETHNIC GROUPS AND WOMEN, AS THEY ARE TO OTHERS.

THEREFORE, WE ARE STRONGLY OPPOSED TO HOST INTERNATIONAL'S REQUEST FOR AN EXTENSION OF ITS CONTRACT WITH THE PORT DISTRICT UNTIL THERE IS ACCEPTABLE EVIDENCE THAT HOST WILL CONTRACT WITH BLACK BUSINESSES AND THAT HOST AGREES TO MAKE AVAILABLE AN ACCEPTABLE PERCENTAGE OF THE AIRPORT BUSINESS TO DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES.

WE WOULD LIKE TO TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO COMMEND YOUR ADOPTION OF THE DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PLAN, AND WE COMMEND YOU IN YOUR EFFORTS TO REPLACE THE PREVIOUS SACCIO'S RESTAURANT WITH A MINORITY OWNED ESTABLISHMENT. HOWEVER, WE ARE UNAWARE OF ANY ACTION THAT DEALS STRONGLY AND IMMEDIATELY WITH HOST INTERNATIONAL TO MOVE THE COMPANY TOWARD COMPLIANCE WITH THE PORT COMMISSION'S POLICY REGARDING DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES, OR THAT PERSUADES HOST TO INCLUDE BLACK OWNED BUSINESSES AMONG THOSE LOCATED AT LINDBERG FIELD.

WE AS CITIZENS OF SAN DIEGO, AS TAXPAYERS AND AS TRAVELERS AND CUSTOMERS OF THE SAN DIEGO AIRPORT, ARE HERE TODAY TO APPEAL FOR RELIEF OF THIS SITUATION. WE DO WANT IT TO BE CLEAR HOWEVER, THAT OUR CONCERN IS A GRAVE ONE AND WE ARE DETERMINED TO PURSUE THIS ISSUE WITH VIGILENCE UNTIL BLACK OWNED BUSINESSES ARE MADE PART OF THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM AT LINDBERG FIELD.

WE THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND DELIBERATION DEBOTED TO THIS MATTER AND WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ACCEPT ANY QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS.

HAROLD K. BROWN

SPOKESMAN FOR THE

N.A.A.C.P., THE CATFISH CLUB

AND THE BLACK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

6/12/90

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6/12/90

RESPONSE TO DBE PLAN

BY

HAROLD K. BROWN

JUNE 12, 1990

ONLY FOUR OF THE SIXTEEN POINTS OF THE DBE PLAN HAVE ANY CONNECTION WITH IMPROVING THE OPPORTUNITIES FOR DISADVANTAGED BUSINESS FIRMS. THEY ARE THE DESIGNATION OF A DBE LIAISON OFFICER, WITH WHOM WE CANNOT ARRANGE A MEETING; THE ESTABLISHING OF PROCEDURES TO ENSURE THAT DBEs HAVE AN EQUITABLE OPPORTUNITY TO COMPETE FOR CONTRACTS AND SUBCONTRACTS, WHICH IS ABSENT OF ANY STRONG AFFIRMATIVE ACTION TECHNIQUES; THE USE OF BANKS OWNED AND CONTROLLED BY MINORITIES AND WOMEN, WHICH HAS NO APPLICATION IN THE BLACK COMMUNITY BECAUSE THERE IS NO BLACK OWNED OR BLACK CONTROLLED BANK IN SAN DIEGO; AND THE COMPILATION AND MAINTENANCE OF A DBE DIRECTORY. AN ESSENTIAL MISSING PART OF THE DBE PLAN IS A PROGRAM DESIGNED TO FOCUS ON EXTENSIVE OUTREACH TO THE ETHNIC AND WOMEN COMMUNITIES AS WELL AS PROVIDING ASSISTANCE TO SUBCONTRACTORS WHO ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR LOCATING AND IDENTIFYING MBE/WBE FIRMS.