[MS-0436.005.009.003]

ACCEPTANCE REMARKS

By

Harold K. Brown

January 14, 2007

HAROLD'S COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD
CHRIST UNITED PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FIRST LET ME SAY THANK YOU TO DR. JUEL MOORE AND THOSE RESPONDIBLE FOR SELECTING ME FOR THIS RECOGNITION. IT IS INDEED AN HONOR AND CARRIES A SPECIAL MEANING WHEN THE RECOGNITION IS ASSOCIATED WITH THE CELEBRATION OF DR. KING'S BIRTHDAY.

I AM VERY MINDFUL HOWEVER, THAT WHATEVER SUCCESS I MAY HAVE ACHIEVED WAS ONLY MADE POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF THE SUPPORT I HAVE RECEIVED FROM MY WIFE OVER THE PAST 40 YEARS. COMMUNITY SERVICE IS SOMETIMES VERY PAINFUL AND HER SUPPORT HAS CERTAINLY BEEN THE WIND BENEATH MY WINGS. THANKS YOU SWEETHEART.

I AM ALSO VERY PLEASED TO SEE SOME OF MY FRIENDS HERE TO SHARE IN THIS MOMENT OF RECOGNITION. THANK ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND FOR BEING HERE TODAY.

DR. MOORE GAVE ME A TIME LIMITATION AND ASKED ME TO SHARE WITH YOU MY

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT EXPERIENCES. IN THE FEW MINUTES THAT I HAVE LEFT, LET ME SAY A FEW THINGS ABOUT MY COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT FROM 1960 TO THE PRESENT, A PERIOD OF 47 YEARS, AND RECALL SOME HIGHLIGHTS DURING THAT TIME. I ESPECIALLY WANT TO EMPHASIZE THE TREMENDOUS PROGRESS SAN DIEGO HAS MADE IN THE AREA OF HUMAN AND CIVIL RIGHTS.

I WILL BEGIN WITH THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. FOR THOSE OF YOU WHO MAY NOT HAVE LIVED HERE IN THE 1960'S, SAN DIEGO WAS A TYPICAL AMERICAN CITY, SEGREGATED AND FILLED WITH RACIAL DISCRIMINATION. A SMALL GROUP OF US FORMED A LOCAL CHAPTER OF CORE, THE CONGRESS OF RACIAL EQUALITY, A NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS ORGANIZATION, TO WORK TO ELIMINATE THOSE UNJUST PRACTICES.

THOSE WERE THE DAYS, I'M SURE YOU WILL REMEMBER, WHEN FIGHTING AGAINST RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION WAS EXTREMELY UNPOPULAR. OUR LOCAL CHAPTER OF CORE WAS VERY ACTIVE AS WE MARCHED, PICKETED, SAT-IN, STOOD-IN, COINED-IN AT BANKS, AND SPOKE OUT AGAINST ALL PRACTICES OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST BLACK AMERICANS.

WE WERE LABELED BY THE LOCAL MEDIA AND THE PUBLIC AS TROUBLE MAKERS AND COMMUNISTS. ON A GOOD DAY THEY DESCRIBED US AS BLACK MILITANT INTELLECTUALS. MOST OF OUR FRIENDS JUST CALLED US CRAZY AND AVOIDED US. EVEN OUR MOTHERS THOUGHT WE WERE CRAZY.

WE WERE DETERMINED AND ANGRY AND UNWILLING TO ACCEPT THOSE CONDITIONS. BUT WHAT DO YOU DO WHEN YOU WORK HARD TO GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE AND YOU FIND THAT JOBS ARE CLOSED TO YOU, WHEN YOU ARE FORCED TO LIVE ONLY IN "DESIGNATED COMMUNITIES", AND HOTELS, RESTUARANTS, AND OTHER SOCIAL VENUES REFUSE YOUR PATRONAGE BECAUSE OF THE COLOR OF YOUR SKIN. A SMALL GROUP OF US DECIDED THAT THE ANSWER FOR US WAS SIMPLE – ORGANIZE TO ERADICATE EVERY TRACE OF RACIAL DISCRIMINATION AND SEGREGATION IN SAN DIEGO.

WELL, OUR DEMONSRATIONS RESULTED IN ARRESTS AND JAIL SENTENCES FOR TRESPASSING. AS THE LEADER OF OUR LOCAL CHAPTER AND AS THE LEADER OF OUR DEMONSTRATIONS, I WAS GIVEN THE LONGEST SENTENCES AND ON ONE OCCASION I WAS SENTENCED TO 45 DAYS IN JAIL.

WAS THE SACRIFICE MADE BY THOSE COURAGEOUS BLACK AND WHITE CORE MEMBERS WORTH IT? YOU BET IT WAS. LOOK AT WHAT HAS BEEN ACCOMPLISHED. IN THE 1960'S, AFRICAN AMERICANS IN SAN DIEGO WERE PRETTY MUCH SHUT OUT FROM MOST OF THE JOB OPPORTUNITIES GENERATED BY THE ECONOMY. NOW, MOST JOBS AND POSITIONS ARE OPEN TO PEOPLE OF COLOR. HOUSING SEGREGATION IN SAN DIEGO IN THE 1960'S WAS WIDESPREAD. NOW, FORCED HOUSING SEGREGATION IS ALL BUT COMPLETELY WIPED OUT. HOTELS AND OTHER SOCIAL VENUES WERE FORCED TO OPEN THEIR DOORS TO EVERYONE.

HOW DID THIS COME ABOUT? IT WAS THE WORK OF THE NATIONAL CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT AND THE MEMBERS OF THE LOCAL CHAPTER OF CORE, THAT FORCED SAN DIEGO TO ABANDON IT'S DISCRIMINATORY PRACTICES AND ADOPT A SYSTEM THAT IS FAIR TO ALL CITIZENS.

I KNOW THERE IS STILL A LOT TO BE DONE. BUT I ALSO KNOW AND APPRECIATE THAT A LOT HAS BEEN DONE. I AM SO PROUD OF THE PROGRESS THAT AFRICAN AMERICANS HAVE MADE IN AMERICA. WHEN I LOOK AT WHAT OUR CHILDREN AND THEIR GENERATION ARE

DOING AND CAN DO, I GIVE THANKS THAT WE HAD THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.

AS FOR SOME OF THE OTHER COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES THAT I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN SINCE THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT. LET ME POINT OUT A FEW:

- THE FOUNDING OF THE SELF HELP THROUGH NEIGHBORHOOD LEADERSHIP PROGRAM IN THE 60'S. IT IS NICE TO SEE WALTER KUDUMU, WHO WAS A PARTICIPANT IN THAT PROGRAM AND HIS WIFE MAISHA HERE TODAY.
- THE SAN DIEGO SCHOOL INTEGRATION TASK FORCE WHICH WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR INTEGRATING SAN DIEGO'S SCHOOLS.
- THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE AFRO-AMERICAN STUDIES PROGRAM AT SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY. THAT PROGRAM IS NOW A FULL DEPARTMENT IN ONE OF THE COLLEGES AT SAN DIEGO STATE. DR. NORMAN CHAMBERS A PROFESSOR IN THAT DEPARTMENT IS HERE TODAY.
- FOUNDING OF THE BLACK ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE ALONG WITH JOE OUTLAW AND A FEW OTHERS. JOE IS HERE TODAY ALSO.
- FOUNDED THE AFRICAN AMERICAN AND JEWISH DIALOGUE WITH MORRIS CASUTO,

REGIONAL DIRECTOR OF THE ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE. MORRIS IS HERE TODAY WITH HIS WIFE DOREEN.
- FOUNDING OF AN ORGANIZATION CALLED COMMUNITY LEADERS UNDOING BIASES
- FOUNDED THE CENTER FOR COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AT SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY. LINDA GUZZO, A GRADUATE OF THE CENTER AND WHO SUCCEEDED ME AS THE DIRECTOR IS ALSO HERE TODAY WITH HER HUSBAND, KEN.
- WHAT AM I DOING NOW? NOW, I HAVE TURNED MY ATTENTION TO JOINING WITH A GROUP TO FORM A COMMUNITY BANK IN THE NATIONAL CITY AND CHULA VISTA AREAS. I AM HAPPY TO SEE SOME OF THE MEMBERS OF THE GROUP HERE TODAY WITH OUR LEADER ALEX CAROLINO AND THE BANK PRESIDENT, GARY BARNES.

AS YOU CAN SEE, I HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN MANY COMMUNITY ACTIVITIES. I HAVE BEEN ASKED NUMEROUS TIMES WHY I SPENT SO MUCH TIME WORKING IN THE COMMUNITY. MY ANSWER WAS ALWAYS LIKE THIS. YOU KNOW, I GUESS IT'S BECAUSE THE WORDS OF BOOKER T. WASHINGTON HAUNT ME WHEN HE SAID, "IF YOU WANT TO HELP YOURSELF, HELP SOMEBODY ELSE". I GUESS THE WORDS OF DR. MARGARET MEADE, A WELL KNOWN

ANTHROPOLOGIST, HAUNT ME WHEN SHE WROTE, "NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS CAN CHANGE THE WORLD". AND WHEN ASKED WHY I DIDN'T SPEND TIME MAKING MONEY INSTEAD OF VOLUNTEERING, AGAIN I AM HAUNTED BY THE WORDS " IT'S NOT THE MONEY YOU MAKE, IT'S THE DIFFERENCE YOU MAKE".

I KNOW THAT THOSE WORDS THAT HAUNT ME MUST HAVE HAUNTED ALL OF THOSE ACTIVISTS WHO CAME BEFORE ME AND I'M SURE THOSE WORDS ALONG WITH OTHERS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL THE PROGRESS THIS CITY AND THIS NATION HAVE ACHIEVED.

AGAIN, TO DR. JUEL MOORE AND THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. CELEBRATION COMMITTEE, PASTOR, REV. BERRY AND MEMBERS OF CHRIST UNITED, THANK YOU FOR HONORING ME WITH THIS SPECIAL RECOGNITION.