



Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, City and Business Leaders Joined GLAAACC in Support of Minority Business Contracting Reform in the City of Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES - The Greater Los Angeles African American Chamber of Commerce (GLAAACC) were joined by Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, City Councilmember Jan Perry, City Controller Wendy Greuel, the Asian Business Association and small business owners at a press conference to unveil *The Case for Minority Business Contracting Reform in the City of Los Angeles*, a report evaluating the City of Los Angeles' current policy for awarding contracts to minority businesses on Tuesday, October 19, 2010 at 9:00 AM at City Hall.

During the press conference, Gene Hale, Chairman of GLAAACC, spoke to the need to create a more equitable playing field for small, minority, and women-owned businesses in the City of Los Angeles. GLAAACC recommended the City amend the Mayor's Executive Directive 2001-06 to include: 1) Small Local Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (SLDBE) and Local Service Disabled Veterans Business Enterprise programs; 2) Authorizing a Disparity Study; 3) Appointing a Director of SLDBE; and 4) Changing the name of the City's Small Business Advisory Committee to the Small Business Commission.

"The City of Los Angeles is looking forward to working with GLAAACC to encourage the growth of small and minority-owned businesses, which are the lifeblood of the Southern California economy. As these businesses prosper so does the City," said Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. GLAAACC applauded Mayor Villaraigosa on his commitment to move forward on implementing reform for minority business contracting in the City. Councilmember Jan Perry also commented, "I commend GLAAACC for producing a comprehensive report that highlights our past efforts and I look forward to working with GLAAACC in generating strategies and solutions that further opportunities for small and minority-owned businesses."

A diverse group of business leaders, including Dennis Huang, Executive Director of the Asian Business Association, Danny Bakewell Sr., Chairman & CEO of The Bakewell Company and Publisher of the Los Angeles Sentinel, and Tracy Rafter, CEO of LA County Business Federation, attended the press conference to show their support for minority business contracting reforms. Dennis Huang expressed the need to increase minority business contracting as "L.A.'s economic future depends on everyone, especially that of local qualified minority firms." Danny Bakewell thanked Mayor Villaraigosa for working with GLAAACC and small, minority-owned business enterprises to reverse the dramatic declines in contracting opportunities that have occurred as a result of Proposition 209.

For further information about minority contracting reform or a copy of the report, *The Case for Minority Business Contracting Reform in the City of Los Angeles*, please contact GLAAACC at (323) 292-1297.

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