



Caribbean American Chamber Of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (CACCI)

For Immediate Release

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CACCI unveils new programs at MLK Breakfast at Borough Hall Small Business Financing – Business Services – Job Development – US 2010 Census

New York City. The Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CACCI) held its Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Business Power Breakfast Meeting on Friday, January 15, 2010 at the Historic Brooklyn Borough Hall, downtown Brooklyn, NY. While continuing to reflect on the Legacy of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., this year's event also focused on CACCI's ***Collective Call for Action*** which addresses critical issues facing small business owners including: small business financing, business services and job development. Distinguished special guest speakers were: Brooklyn Deputy Borough President **Yvonne Graham**; **Hon. Sylvia Hinds-Radix**, Administrative Judge for Civil Matters, NYS Supreme Court; **Jess Knox**, Associate Administrator, United States Small Business Administration, Washington, DC; **Pravina Raghavan**, District Director, United States Small Business Administration (SBA); Asst. Commissioner **Gregory Bishop**, NYC Department of Small Business Services (DSBS); **Darrell S. Gay**, Esq., Partner, Arent Fox LLP, Attorneys At Law, **Lesia Bates Moss**, President, Seedco Financial Services, and CACCI Board members, **Derek E. Broomes**, Board Chairman, **George Hulse**, Vice Chair and Vice President, Health First and **Edmund Sadio**, Chair of the Membership Committee.

Small Business Services Financial Literacy and Job Development

As CACCI plans to celebrate 25 years of service to the small business community, two new programs were unveiled at this event: A Small Business Services program run by a team of professionals headed by **Collette Burnette**, Small Business Consultant. These programs will focus on ***Financial Literacy, Business Services and Job Development***. Seminars and workshops will be held to help to educate attendees on how to start, manage, and operate a successful small business, and provide knowledge, tools, and skills needed to grow a successful small business. Established business owners will find these workshops particularly helpful in developing strategies for improving existing performance and growth. Plans are to expand CACCI's mentorship program so that more eligible mentors will be identified from the current CACCI membership and the wider small business community. Therefore an added benefit for

seminar attendees will be opportunities to make contact with established and successful entrepreneurs and find suitable mentors within the CACCI network.

US Census 2010 – CACCI/NYS Outreach Mobilization Campaign

CACCI's other new initiative that was unveiled at the MLK event was its ***US Census 2010 – CACCI/NYS Outreach Mobilization Campaign***. CACCI is proposing targeted outreach to Brooklyn neighborhoods that had the lowest Census 2000 response rates (40% and less), and highest hard-to-count rankings (71+). The neighborhoods targeted are Bedford-Stuyvesant, Bushwick, East NY, Crown Heights (North & South) Brownsville, Flatbush, East Flatbush, and Canarsie. In order to make the Census 2010 count a success, CACCI will partner with interested collaborators from diverse sectors including: elected officials, small business, immigrant and civic groups, educational institutions, community, and faith-based organizations.

Haiti Disaster Relief Efforts

The Martin Luther King Power Breakfast meeting also addressed the earthquake which struck Haiti on January 12th causing one of the worst disasters in Haiti's history leaving death and destruction in its path. CACCI's president **Roy A. Hastick, Sr.** informed the MLK attendees that he has witnessed an outpouring of community support for the people of Haiti. He further stated that over two dozen vendors at the **Flatbush Caton Market** are of Haitian origin and are experiencing this tragedy first hand. ***"They are worried and traumatized and we are doing all that we can to help to alleviate some of the suffering and pain our Haitian born vendors and their families are experiencing while at the same time we are creating the space and opportunity for the community to get directly involved in the relief effort,"*** Hastick said. Since the disaster occurred, the print, radio and television media have converged on the Market and CACCI and its partners have been collaborating in order to provide a coordinated and rapid response. CACCI partner **SUNY Downstate Medical Center** has been providing emergency grief and trauma counseling services for the vendors and the surrounding community in an **Emergency Trauma Mobile Van** that is parked outside of the **Flatbush Caton Market**. **Medgar Evers College** and other CUNY campuses are making arrangements to provide crises counseling services and to host a number of Haiti Relief efforts and events. CACCI EF Board member **Dennis Hawthorne** of Dennis Shipping is collaborating with CACCI and the Consulate of Haiti to send a container of donated relief items to Haiti.

For more information on CACCI's small business services programs, CACCI/NYS Census 2010 Mobilization and Outreach Program, Haiti Disaster Relief efforts and for CACCI Membership, contact CACCI: Tel.: 718 834-4544.