

ECONOMIC STATE OF BLACK NEW YORK

Report Set for March 10 Release

Rev. Dennis Dillon, the chief author of the Economic State of Black New York Report, plans to release the full 2008 study on Monday, March 10, 2008, at the annual presentation to be hosted by the Brooklyn Christian Center.

Explaining the significant contribution that Blacks in the tri-state area make to the region's economy and the unrelenting consumer dependency syndrome (CDS) that impairs economic progress, Dillon – who gained prominence addressing economic injustices and Black spending patterns – will speak to the negative impact of the foreclosure crisis and the President's distorted stimulus package on the Black community.

"Our community suffers greatly because we have an ingrained consumer culture without indigenous commerce. We are, once again, the big losers because we have no commerce to stimulate and will consequently feed our addiction to spend," Rev. Dillon insists.

Since 1995, Rev. Dillon and The New York Christian Times have studied Black consumer patterns and consistently chronicled Black business progress and consumer trends, contending that the New York Black business community is slipping backwards as opposed to moving forward.

Blacks own less than 7% of the Main Street businesses and less than 1% of the commercial real estate in predominantly Black neighborhoods. The average Black business has gross revenue of \$70,000 compared with \$1.3 million for the average Asian business, \$126,000 for the average Latino busi-



Corporate, clergy, community and business leaders join Rev. Marline Thomas (center), president of the Economic Literacy Coalition, for the organization's recent launch

ness, and \$10 million for the average business in New York State. With over 3,800 franchise corporations registered to do business in New York State, of the more than 43,000 franchisees in metropolitan New York, there are only an estimated 210 (less than 1/2%) operated by Black New Yorkers, the report contends.

But nowhere are the numbers more startling than in the area of banking, commercial lending, wealth ownership and financial management. "We are victims of ignorance and poor builders of wealth even though we manage and juggle money well," shared Rev. Marline Thomas, the President of the Economic Literacy Coalition and organizer of the LEAD (Literacy and Economic Awareness Drive) Initiative.

According to Dillon's report, New York City's Black consumers are responsible for depositing over \$60 billion in the city's 10 largest banks, while getting back less than \$18 million in SBA loans and less than \$200 million in home mortgages. "These banking institutions with such solid control of the giant share of Black deposited dollars are the co-creators of this

foreclosure tsunami of a crisis. Because they refuse to lend or to work deliberately to create an environment of sophisticated financial consumers, they leave an environment overwhelmed by disconnected predatory lenders and merchants that prey on our community's ignorance," Dillon said.

The report also provides data on the largest banks in New York and the estimated Black deposit share, and addresses which institutions are dispensing SBA loans and the amount of loans made to New York's Black businesses.

According to 2008 data, Blacks have high income capacity – mostly on par with and in some categories even surpassing their White counterparts – yet are not building wealth or increasing real estate ownership.

Dillon, who is regarded as one of the region's leading advocates and a trailblazer in the field of Urban Economics and Black spending patterns, is the co-founder and chief architect of the Black Church Means Business Conference and the LEAD Initiative. "Black New Yorkers pull such a small slice from the economic pie that it crumbles into small insignificant pieces when trying to pick it up," explained Dillon, who contends that urgent action is needed. "And we must act now!" he concludes.

The Economic State of Black New York presentation will take place on Monday, March 10, 2008, at 7:00 pm at the Brooklyn Christian Center, which is located at 1061 Atlantic Avenue (bet. Franklin and Classon Avenues), in Brooklyn, NY. The presentation will be preceded by a VIP Reception at 5:30 p.m. and a press briefing at 6:30 p.m.

For information, please call 718-638-6397.

SBA Loans to Black Businesses from Top 9 Banks for Black Deposits				
INSTITUTION	TOTAL LOANS	LOANS BY RACE		
		BLACKS	ASIANS	LATINOS
Chase	\$80,200,000	5.7%	27.4%	8.4%
citi	\$47,000,000	14%	26%	7.6%
Bank of America	\$39,000,000	8.5%	47%	7.1%
Commerce Bank	\$29,300,000	1.9%	25.6%	2.9%
BANCO POPULAR	\$19,500,000	4.3%	17.9%	13.8%
Capital One	\$16,000,000	3.2%	7.5%	5.6%
WaMu	\$12,600,000	4.8%	20.6%	7.5%
HSBC	\$7,100,000	7%	18.3%	6.6%
Sovereign Bank	\$3,800,000	0%	52%	13%

POPULATION REPRESENTATION	
NYC	9,200,000
Whites	2,980,000
Blacks	2,680,000
Latino	2,100,000
Asians	986,000
Others	454,000