



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Contact:

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**AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER CALLS FOR NOMINEES FOR THE '09 10
INFLUENTIAL BLACKS IN BUSINESS AWARDS CEREMONEY
DURING THE 10TH ANNUAL OFFICIAL JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION**

The Annual Juneteenth Celebration for Westchester County, sponsored by The African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties, Inc. (AACWR), will take place June 18 through June 21, 2009.

People of African ancestry who wish to be considered for the African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties, Inc.'s Influential Blacks in Business Award may nominate themselves or be nominated by others. The awards are open to people of African ancestry who are business owners, or senior executives in the public, private or non-profit sectors. All information provided on nominees will be kept confidential. Applications are available on the Chamber's website a www.aaccnys.org.

The theme is From Sharecroppers to Share Holders (a quote by Dorothy Pittman-Hughes). The first event of the celebration will be the Business to Business Reception honoring the Ten Most Influential Blacks on Thursday, June 18th beginning at 6:00pm.

The Juneteenth Celebration commemorates the date – June 19, 1865 – when the slaves in Galveston, TX first received the word of the Emancipation Proclamation abolishing slavery which was originally issued by Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863. Today, Juneteenth is a celebration of freedom which emphasizes education and achievement. Resolutions have been unanimously passed in the United States House of Representative and in the Senate encouraging the observance of Juneteenth with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs across the country, and asking that President Bush issue a Juneteenth Independence Day Proclamation.

For more information on the events call 914-699-4749 or see the website: www.aaccnys.org.