



# PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: May 6, 2002 **UPDATED**  
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## Juneteenth Celebration 2002 Business-to-Business Development Day Expo

During the month of June the **African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties (Chamber)** will host its **Fifth Annual Juneteenth Celebration (JC)**, one of Westchester and Rocklands most exciting networking opportunities for persons interested in doing business within the African American community.

The 2002 celebration, entitled *“From Sharecroppers to Shareholders”* (Quote by Dorothy Pittman Hughes) will host a number of events designed to thrill and engage the participants while celebrating the accomplishments of African Americans. Once again, the JC will be chronicled in the Journal News’ 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of the Juneteenth Celebration Supplement, which will be distributed in all Westchester & Rockland newspapers on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>. The supplement will contain interviews with a wide range of notable African Americans who are residents of Westchester and Rockland Counties including: Mr. Hugh Price, President of the National Urban League; Mr. Earl G. Graves, Chairman/CEO Black Enterprise Magazine; Mr. Richard Parsons, President of AOL Time Warner; Mr. Denzel Washington/ Actor, Director/ Producer; Mr. Kenneth Chenault, President/CEO of American Express and interviews from former sharecroppers or family members of sharecroppers (invited list)

Events will include the annual Deliverance Ball, the Senior Tea etc. In addition to the existing annual events the celebration will include the first annual Business-to-Business Development Day on June 18, 2002 at the Hilton Rye Town in Rye Brook, NY. Billionaire entrepreneur Mr. Robert Johnson, President/CEO/Founder of Black Entertainment Television (BET) will deliver the luncheon keynote address and NYS Comptroller H. Carl McCall will bring greetings from the state. Actor Leon & Model Cynthia Bailey will serve as the Luncheon MCs. Luncheon Co-chairs include Hon. Eliot Engel, Hon. Sue W. Kelly, Hon. Nita M. Lowey, Hon. H. Carl McCall, Hon. J. Gary Pretlow, Hon. Lois Bronz, Hon. Vito J. Pinto, Hon. Richard G. Wishnie, Hon. Ernest D. Davis, Hon. John M. Nonna, Hon. Ben Boykin, Mr. Hugh B. Price/ President of the National Urban League, Mr. Felix Sanchez, Mr. W. Garrison Jackson, Mr. Fenton N. Soliz, Ms Geraldine King, Tomia Wooten, Mrs. Rosa K. Barksdale, Mr. Winston Ross, Mrs. Dorothy Orr, Barbara Edwards, Esq. and Ms Renee Guy and Liegh Burton (list to date). Sponsors include Schieffelin & Somerset, Heineken USA, CableVision, State Farm Insurance and Sweetheart Cup Company. (List to date).

The BTB luncheon will be followed by an expo & seminars and a town hall meeting, where Ms Joan Parrot-Fonseca, former Director of Minority Business Development Agency (a division of the Dept. of Commerce) and others (TBD) will be on hand to discuss the state of the economy and sign sections of the book “Take a Lesson” written by Caroline V. Clarke.

Businesses interested in displaying their company at the BTB EXPO must contact the Chamber for a vendor application. Space for the EXPO is limited. We encourage those wishing to display their company to register as soon as possible. BTB booth space will be assigned on a first come first serve basis.

For security purposes, we require reservations for the June 18<sup>th</sup> BTB event in advance. All reservations must be accompanied with payment by Wednesday, June 12, 2002. We will not – will not collect checks at the door or after Wednesday, June 12, 2002.

For additional information contact the Chamber at 914-699-4749 or log on to the Chamber newly designed website at [www.africanamericanchamberofcommercenys.org](http://www.africanamericanchamberofcommercenys.org). Event code 2202btb.

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