

# The KEY Newsjournal



Serving Central Kentucky's Black Community



April 20 - May 3, 2009

FREE

## Blacks across America demanding their share of business

*Minority inclusion goals merely "lip-service"*  
By Patrice K. Muhammad

With what is being heralded as a victory for Black Owned Businesses (B.O.B's) nationwide, Miami, FL raised the bar on minority inclusion standards.

The predominately Black Miami-Dade Chamber of Commerce, the Miami NAACP and the Florida Marlin's baseball team, struck a deal that would guarantee contracts for B.O.B's during the construction and future operation of the new \$515 million baseball park.

Bill Diggs, President and CEO of the Chamber said, "This agreement creates a standard for partnerships and how they should work in Black communities across the country".

The agreement calls for 15 percent of building contracts to be awarded to B.O.B's as well as 15 percent of future annual product and service contracts for the facility. That number is equal to the percentage of Blacks in Miami. Over sixty percent of Miami residents are Latino and 15 percent are Caucasian.

"This is a great day for Black



**Several Black contractor's attended a meeting to learn of the opportunities available at The Lyric Theatre site. The city plans to award 10% of contracts to minorities.**

business, not only in Miami," said Diggs, "but nation-wide."

In a recent interview, Diggs explained the significance of the agreement for products and services. "Construction companies are often nomads who come into a community, do a project and leave. That is usually a one-time deal. But contracts for

Black businesses specializing in security, maintenance, marketing and graphic design could help create jobs and keep money in the community for years to come."

Just days after the announcement of the agreement, Miami city officials cried foul and pressured the group to rescind

their agreement by claiming that it was against Federal law. The NAACP, Chamber and Marlin team all believe the agreement is legal. However, since some tax dollars will be used and the local county attorney claims to have found it in violation, the group agreed to honor

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## Public Meetings Scheduled to Discuss Transit Planning

LEXINGTON, KY April 20, 2009- Preliminary findings of a comprehensive operational analysis will be presented to the general public during a series of scheduled public meetings:

- Monday April 27, 12-1:30 pm- Lexington Public Library  
*Eagle Creek Branch* 101 North Eagle Creek Drive
- Monday April 27, 5-7 pm- Lexington Public Library  
*Village Branch* 2185 Versailles Rd.
- Wednesday, April 29, 5-7 pm- Lexington Public Library  
*Central Library* 140 E. Main Street
- Tuesday, May 12, 5-7 pm- Forcht Bank, 2404 Sir Barton Way
- Wednesday, May 13, 12-1:30 pm- Lexington Public Library  
*Northside Branch* 1733 Russell Cave Rd.
- Thursday, May 14, 12-1:30 pm-, Lexington Public Library  
*Baumont Branch* 3080 Fieldstone Way

Members of the public will be given an opportunity to review results and recommendations and provide input. For more information contact the offices for the Transit Authority of Lexington, Kentucky (LEXTRAN) is as follows: Administrative Office 109 West Loudon Avenue Lexington, Kentucky 40508 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday - Friday Phone: 859-255-7756



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Award-winning Black farmer draws huge crowd

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