



Press Release
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NABOB, NATIONAL BANKERS ASSOCIATION AND U.S. BLACK CHAMBERS HIGHLIGHT THE IMPORTANT ISSUE RAISED BY BYRON ALLEN LAWSUIT AGAINST COMCAST-TIME WARNER

The National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters, National Bankers Association and U.S. Black Chambers joined together today to issue a statement on the recent lawsuit filed by Byron Allen's television programming company against Comcast, some leading civil rights organizations, and Reverend Al Sharpton.

Jim Winston, President of NABOB said, "We have joined together to issue this statement, because we believe this lawsuit needs to be discussed, but not for the reasons it has drawn so much media attention. The media should be focusing on the underlying issue, the lack of business being done with African American owned businesses by major corporations. In particular, Comcast missed a huge opportunity to advance that goal when it failed to sell any of its cable television systems to companies owned by African Americans."

Michael Grant, President of the National Bankers Association pointed out, "Our organizations have been reaching out to corporate America for years urging them to do business with the African American owned banks and other businesses that connect with and serve our communities."

"We are pleased to see major corporations enter into memoranda of understanding with leading civil rights groups. However, when the agreements cover business issues, the organizations with expertise in those businesses should be at the table and, most importantly, must be a part of the ongoing review of the success of those agreements," said Ron Busby, Sr., President, U.S. Black Chambers, Inc.

Mr. Winston added, “We hope that the Byron Allen lawsuit will get the discussion of the relationship between corporate America and African American businesses focused on business and not personal attacks against the leadership of America’s foremost civil rights organizations. Rev. Sharpton and the organizations attacked by Mr. Allen do important and extensive work on behalf of the African American community.”

Mr. Grant added, “Our organizations have always worked closely with these civil rights organizations in the past, and we look forward to doing so in the future. We hope that Mr. Allen will redirect his attention to the corporate practices he highlighted and not to the civil rights organizations.”

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