

# THE NEVADA BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC.

## OBJECTIVES

percent? I don't think it can be done.

It almost seems that the decision for voting rights was delayed until such time that it was apparent that ERA would fall. I wonder, if that perception is true, what would have been the fate of voting rights had it appeared that ERA would've received the needed votes? We are left to wonder about that.

I am certain that you are aware that ERA has not been a top priority among minority people. That is particularly true of minority women. There have been any number of comments to the effect that ERA has

tions, while important, should not blind us to certain other facts of life. High on the list has got to be the criteria established by the Founding Fathers following the realization of the independence as stated in the July 4th Declaration. Almost a dozen years later in 1787 with the drafting of the U.S. Constitution, the majority of the people of the U.S. were excluded from participation in the new government. In order to be guaranteed full rights and liberties, one needed to have been free, male, white, 21 years old and a property holder. No blacks, browns, reds, women along with the age and

Through continuous questions and concerns for the establishment and advancement of BLACK entrepreneurs as well as the economic development of the BLACK COMMUNITY, several meetings were called to answer those questions and concerns and to develop a solution.

It was decided that UNITY among the Black businesspersons was of the utmost importance. To this end, THE NEVADA BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC., was established and chartered in July 1980.

After several meetings took place, by-laws were adopted, officers and Board of Directors were elected and THE NEVADA BLACK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, INC., officially began its business.

The Chamber's first priority, after putting together its organizational structure, is to develop a cohesive membership where ideas and recommended programs of its membership will be implemented in an orderly and constructive manner.

Committees are appointed to develop and carry out its goals and objectives.

It is a continuing goal to attract businesspersons as members that understand the need for a STRONG BLACK CHAMBER, to begin working toward the economic development within the State of Nevada to provide the financial strength and business expansion for our community.

Preserving the competitive enterprise system of business by:

Creating a better understanding and appreciation of the importance of the BLACK businessman and a concern for his/her problems;

Creating a more intelligent business and public opinion regarding city, county and state as well as national legislation and political affairs that are detrimental to the expansion and growth of the BLACK business community — and/or adjusting them, if the need arises; and

Creating a greater appreciation of the value of a more liberal investment of substance for self on behalf of the interests of competitive business.

Promoting business and community growth and development by:

Developing and promoting economic programs designed to strengthen and expand the income potential of all BLACK businesses within the trade areas;

Promoting programs of a civic, social and cultural nature which are designed to increase the functional and aesthetic values of our community;

Discovering and correcting abuses which prevent the promotion of business expansion and community growth; and

Instructing, educating and assisting, in the general sense of business, those businesspersons for his/her own benefit as well as the good of the economy.

*"United we stand, divided we fall."*



Massachusetts, 1776. (New York Public Library)

Indeed injured the Civil Rights movement especially in its impact on job opportunities for minority men. We know, too, that some of the things ERA is interested in is of little concern to minority women, who have, for years, had to do double duty in the home and on the job site. Minority women, according to some reports, desire a little TLC and consideration. To a certain extent they have found themselves in a kind of Rodney Dangerfield syndrome — no respect. The latter is particularly true in the job market. Few have been concerned with their having to lift, carry and put in long, hard days.

Those considera-

property requirements. In more ways than not, the domestic history of this country has been a record of the efforts of those groups to gain inclusion. Whenever any one of the five find themselves excluded, it impacts on all of the others. Sooner or later racial minorities will unify and will then unify with women and the elderly and they in turn will unify with the young and the propertyless and they will discover that while their numbers might not be sufficient individually to effect any change in America, collectively, they can place themselves in a position where they will no longer need to tolerate the shabby treatment doled out by

the "good ole boys."

Too bad those groups can never seem to stop fighting among themselves. I wonder who is responsible for that con-

stant bickering? You guessed it!

We still hold these truths to be self evident and one of these days, so will they.



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**Brenda Dumas**

Brenda Dumas moved to Las Vegas from Pomona, California, in 1975. Brenda has been serving her real estate clients and customers for over two years. She and her husband, Joe, are members of Saint James Catholic Church. Brenda's hobbies include reading, bowling and her recently born daughter, Ebonee.



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