

BUSINESS

BUSINESS EXCHANGE

LIVING FOR THE CITY

By William Reed

The nation's urban centers are mostly black, and their prospects for the future are mostly bleak. Blacks who've become mayors of America's largest cities, while novelties in the 60s, are like permanent pallbearers toward massive Boot Hill sites without headstones. Coleman Young, David Dinkins, Wilson Goode and Tom Bradley are confronted daily with dying and decaying boroughs that have no money in the treasury, gang wars on the streets, corners that serve as drug distribution points, shortages of housing units and mounting homeless problems and protests.

Each day Detroit, New York, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and scores of points in between, face deterioration and festering decay. Financially, physically and socially many of our largest, oldest, and now black-run cities can no longer fill the basic functions that originally gave them reason for being. Our cities have fallen, and they can't get up.

Detroit is no longer the automotive mecca of the world. New York is suffering from crumbling streets and massive losses of residents and reputation. Philadelphia has lost most of its brotherly love to street wars while the government teeters on the brink of bankruptcy. Los Angeles is

losing control to the Crips and Bloods and drug consumption and distribution. Over the past 3 decades as cities have grown into increasing shades of black and brown, they've regressed toward degeneration and decomposition. As we are approaching our third set of black mayors in many urban centers it is becoming appallingly clear to them that the problems of cities may have passed their political, managerial and administrative abilities to cope.

The mostly black citizenry living in the cities also have to face up to the fact that places like East St. Louis, Liberty City, Watts and Huff are a drain on the nation's coffers and the feds are ceasing in their willingness, and ability, to support them. The "they" that we've relied on for paternal support for all these years, have all gone from the city and presently have no plans to return. The mostly black blocks of people in our cities will have to be the ones to bring us back from the brink. We will have to be the ones who build much needed shopping centers, retail establishments, schools and houses for our people to grow and live.

Sure the federal government will have to help in partnerships with us to revamp public housing and our neighborhoods. But

whose responsibility is it to provide urban residents with skills training in construction and computer technology, meaningful jobs in the private sector and career choices that can be fulfilled? Who do we have to point at that goes to the outskirts of town to buy their goods and deposit their monies? Who will fund and support black mayors

in the tax hikes and innovative metropolitan collection plans needed to rebuild buildings, roads and bridges? Who will devote eight to 10 hours each week to patrol our neighborhoods and streets to arrest drug sales and accompanying street crime? Mostly it will take Black People to save the cities in which so many of us live. To save our

cities, our people will have to bond to remold them and make fundamental changes to enhance their futures. Churches, civic groups and concerned individual citizens will have to bring about fundamental changes in black behavior and expectations from City Hall. It is us who will have to make long term investments and improve-



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ments in the inner-cities. If we continue to wait for "them" to do what has to be done to preserve our urban enclaves, we will continue to let the places where we live rot and decay and someday realize that the enemy was not them, but us.

CENSUS REPORT SAYS MALE-OWNED MINORITY BUSINESSES OUTPACE WOMEN-OWNED FIRMS IN AVERAGE ANNUAL RECEIPTS

Average sales receipts (total income) were higher for companies owned by minority men than minority women in 1987, according to a report from the Commerce Department's Census Bureau.

The report, from the 1987 Survey of Minority-Owned Business Enterprises, summarizes information provided by three earlier reports and provides new data for minority-owned businesses by gender.

Average annual receipts for minority male-owned firms were \$74,500 compared with women-owned firms of \$46,300. For firms with paid employees the difference was less significant. For these larger businesses, average annual receipts for minority male-owned firms were \$229,500 while women-owned firms averaged \$221,300.

Within the specific minority groups, Asian American and Pacific Islander men had the highest receipts per firm at

Minority-Owned Firms by Gender

Minority	Firms (number)	Sales and receipts (\$1,000,000)	Percent of all minority-owned firms by gender	
			Firms	Sales and receipts
All minority firms	1,213,750	77,840	100.0	100.0
Men	825,441	59,847	100.0	100.0
Black	265,887	13,232	32.0	21.9
Hispanic	307,348	20,403	36.9	33.8
American Indian and Alaska Native	15,072	711	1.8	1.2
Asian and Pacific Islander	243,442	25,988	29.3	43.1
Women	388,309	17,993	100.0	100.0
Black	158,278	6,531	40.4	35.9
Hispanic	115,025	4,328	29.4	23.8
American Indian and Alaska Native	6,308	200	1.6	1.1
Asian and Pacific Islander	111,889	7,136	28.6	39.2

Note: Detail in this table does not add to total because of duplication of some firms. Firms that were owned equally by 2 or more minorities are included in the data for each minority group but counted only once at total levels.

\$106,800; American Indian and Alaska native women had the lowest at \$31,700.

Distribution by industry also varied by gender. Service industries, where receipts are typically lower, claimed 58 percent of the firms owned by minority women, but only 41 percent of the firms owned by minority men. In the construction industries, which usually have higher receipts, only 2 percent of the firms were owned by minority women while minority men owned 12 percent.

Over 1.2 million minority-owned firms with gross receipts

of almost \$78 billion operated in 1987. Minority women owned 388,309 (32 percent) of those firms, and had 23 percent of the receipts, while minority males owned 825,441 (68 percent) of minority-owned firms and had 77 percent of the receipts.

Minority-owned firms increased 64 percent from 1982 to 1987, accounting for about 9 percent of all U.S. firms and 4 percent of total gross receipts. Increases varied from 89 percent for businesses owned by Asian and Pacific Islanders to 38 percent for Black-owned (See Census Report, Page 17)

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