

# Million Woman March organizers confident despite glitches

**By Penni Roberts**  
*Special to Sentinel-Voice*  
"Contrary to some news reports, things are running smoothly for the Oct. 25 Million Woman March set for Philadelphia's Benjamin Franklin Parkway," national organizing committee chair Phile Chioensu said.

A recent report indicated that a top platform was "national support for Congresswoman Maxine Waters, and the investigation into whether the CIA was responsible for helping to bring crack-cocaine into the black communities of Los Angeles."

The report also said organizers expected Waters to attend the event. However, Waters reportedly was unaware that she was scheduled to attend and speak.

"It might be a wonderful event, but I've asked them who are the sponsors and where they are getting the funding. I haven't received any answers," Waters was quoted as saying.

Chioensu said she has no knowledge of anyone from the Philadelphia organizing branch being asked about sponsors. "Since we have been trying to meet with her, we would have certainly given her that information," she said.

Chioensu did however

confirm that two coordinators of the organization spoke with Waters several weeks ago about the planned March when she was in Philadelphia.

"They gave her information and she asked them something about (Nation of Islam's leader) Minister Farrakhan, and they told her he had given his endorsement," Chioensu said. Waters appeared relieved after hearing the information, Chioensu said they told her.



FARRAKHAN

Additionally, she said Waters was faxed information regarding the March and was contacted by another March coordinator from New York. But, "essentially, we have not confirmed anything with her," she said.

Chioensu said she has since tried to contact Waters herself to straighten out the misunderstanding, but has been unable to speak directly with her.

In addition to the Waters miscommunication, Chioensu admitted that initially the March was not taken very seriously.

"When we put the call out, we put the call out to all black women," she said. But she suggested that because some of the women within the core group of organizers were not members in more established women's groups, they were not enthusiastically received

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MAXINE WATERS

by some. Chioensu said that organizers wanted to be all-inclusive and therefore sought in the initial stages to appeal to, and involve,

women in grassroots organizations.

"This had to have something different to it," she said. "It couldn't just be a lot of names. (We) had to make certain that the grassroots people were not just included when it came time to get out in the street and give out flyers," she said.

But initial reluctance has waned and a growing number of people are now seeking active involvement.

"As things began to grow and develop, they realized things were serious. So now

people are beginning to call," Chioensu said.

She said that the organization is being flooded with calls as well as inquiries on its website from people seeking information about the March.

For information on the March please call (215) 476-3683, (215) 476-3685 or (215) 925-1677. You may also visit their website at [www.timesx2.com/million/women.html](http://www.timesx2.com/million/women.html).

*Penny Roberts is a reporter with The Philadelphia Tribune.*

## Oprah inks new deal

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

Oprah Winfrey will host her Emmy Award-winning talk show through 1999-2000 thanks to a new deal with King World Productions Inc.

The producer of the Oprah Winfrey Show, and King World Productions, the program's distributor, made the announcement Monday.

Winfrey had hinted that this season might be her last because she wanted to pursue other projects. But now she says she wants to use television to entertain and help people lead better lives.

Under the new deal, Winfrey will host the program for two more years. Under her old deal, which expired Monday, she would have continued the show through next year.

King World said under the deal Winfrey was granted 500,000 King World stock options for the two years. She now owns options to purchase 2.05 million common shares.

Winfrey made an estimated \$97 million last year and will earn an estimated \$104 million this year, according to the current issue of Forbes magazine.

"The Oprah Winfrey Show has set and maintained television's highest standards of quality for more than a decade, and we're thrilled that Oprah has decided to continue on," said King World Chairman Roger King.

King World maintains the exclusive right to distribute to the show in first-run syndication through the 1999-2000 television season. King World has sold the program in over 99 percent of the United States through the year 2000.

## O.J. leaving estate

*Special to Sentinel-Voice*

LOS ANGELES — O.J. Simpson is moving from his Brentwood estate, his assistant confirmed Monday. She declined comment on the location of his new residence.

"It's a fact he's moving. Everyone knows he's moving," Cathy Randa, his assistant, said.

A yellow rental truck was parked in Simpson's driveway Monday, but it was unclear if it was hauling possessions he plans to keep. Randa said a truck was being used to haul some items being donated to a school.

Simpson, who wants his two youngest children, Sydney and Justin, insulated from media scrutiny, has said he was looking for a west side home so they could continue attending the school they're at.

The estate became a crime scene and Simpson a suspect in the 1994 stabbing deaths of his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman. The famous slow-speed chase of the white Ford Bronco ended there, too.

Simpson was acquitted of murder charges but a wrongful death lawsuit led to a \$33.5 million judgment against him. Goldman's father Fred has had some valuables seized from Simpson to try to collect the judgment.

The Brentwood mansion was sold at auction in July for \$2.63 million to the bank that foreclosed on it.

Simpson bought the home in 1977. The 6,200-square-foot house has secluded grounds, six bathrooms, a tennis court, waterfalls and a swimming pool.

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