

ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
DECEMBER 13, 2007

CONTACT: Kermit Eady
PHONE: 917-642-1878

PRESS CONFERENCE ON THE STEPS OF CITY HALL

TIME CHANGE: PRESS CONFERENCE BEGINS AT 12:30PM

CITY COUNCILMAN CHARLES BARRON QUESTIONS THE DISMANTLING OF THE BLACK UNITED FUND OF NEW YORK BY GOVERNOR SPITZER

An unprecedented press conference is scheduled for 12:30 PM, Tuesday, December 18, 2007 on the steps of City Hall to bring to light the many unanswered questions surrounding the controversial "investigation" initiated in 2002 and the subsequent takeover in 2003 of the Harlem-based non-profit Black United Fund of New York by then Attorney General Eliot Spitzer. Spitzer announced in May 2003 that the replacement of the entire board of directors with a board of all Republican appointees was "to help BUFNY flourish" and to "breathe new life into BUFNY, and help shepherd its finances and programs." Unfortunately BUFNY, has not flourished in fact it doesn't exist anymore. Its former headquarters is now the home of Harlem Lounge the "Shrine", a bar.

Speakers, in addition to Councilman Barron, include Kermit Eady, BUFNY founder and former president and CEO; Larry Barton, former vice president and general manager; and James McIntosh, MD, CEMOTAP (Committee to Eliminate Media Offensive To African People) co-chair.

As a result of Mr. Eady and others being stripped of their titles and positions with BUFNY they were not allowed to have access to premises or their personal belongings chronicling the history, successes and awards (over 100 awards and plaques) received over the many years of BUFNY's existence. Eventually Mr. Eady learned that his and others personal belongings had been thrown out regarded as common garbage. Also it's been 5 years and still there has been no official Certificate of Discontinuance of the investigation. BUFNY founders and

supporters simply want to know among other things, why was this great self-help organization, BUFNY destroyed? What happened to all the BUFNY assets in real estate, technology centers, radio station, stocks, etc? Why was the World Jewish Congress treated so differently, as noted by the Chronicle of Philanthropy? Who benefited from the destruction of BUFNY? What has happened to board appointed by the Governor? What is their responsibility in all that has transpired with BUFNY? Why have so few politicians offered their support?

ALL ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

Press Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 18, 2007

Contact: Kermit Eady
Phone: 917-642-1878
E-Mail: info@kermiteady.com
Website: www.kermiteady.com

As we began the journey of building an economic infrastructure, the Black United Fund of New York in 1979, the realization that White America had always told Black people in this country to boots strap and do for self was engrained deeply in my mind. I also remembered that my dad, a small farmer in South Carolina, would always tell his sons, "boys if you take care of the land, the land the land will take care of you".

Having been introduced to the Black United Fund Concept by the Late Walter Bremond, and remembering also my dad said "he who pays you sways you" the fund raising methodology of payroll deductions was the most viable way to raise money from the masses in country. We knew that if we could average a dollar a paycheck from the Black work force in this country on a weekly basis, we could raise a billion 500 hundred million dollars from ourselves. With this kind of predictable and leverageable income coming from us, we would not have to beg anyone and we could surely build institutions, employ our people and pay even more taxes to the government, which would help the overall economy of the country. With all of this in mind, the work began.

With the help of Black employees we organized and opened payroll deduction systems at AT&T, Bell Labs, IBM, New York Telephone Co(now Verizon), City and State Governments, Health and Hospitals Corporation, Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority, Transit Authority and on and on. The Black United Fund raised millions of dollars from the Black workforce and invested those dollars in affordable housing, two tech centers, a radio station, high tech apartment buildings, grants to community based organizations, and more importantly teaching Black people how to build using their own money. We must understand that prior to BUFNY gaining access in payroll deduction markets, only the United Way had access to workplace giving. Because of BUFNY'S work, now thousands of charities all over the country can enjoy raising money at the workplace.

For almost 25 years, we practiced the principles and concepts of self-help. Then in 2002 the Attorney General came along and decided to continue the practice of killing another Black self-help movement. It must be noted that every Black self-help movement in this country has been destroyed: Tulsa, Oklahoma (the *Black Wall Street*), Nation of Islam, UNIA, BUFNY, etc. As there has never been an explanation given by Governor Spitzer, the major question we are asking is why was BUFNY destroyed? We are also asking what happened to BUFNY'S assets. (i.e. Housing, Radio Station, High Tech Buildings on 137 street, 2 Technical Centers, consisting of tens of thousands of dollars worth of equipment along with customer projects, IBM Stock, ATM machines, Valuable Jewelry, Eady and Barton's personal belongings, the records/papers of BUFNY). **As a Democrat, why did the Attorney General appoint five Republicans from**

Nassau County to replace BUFNY's original board, and who gained from the destruction of the Black United Fund of NY?

We are told to practice self-sufficiency, yet when we do so, our work and our leaders are viciously attacked and destroyed, why? This does not happen to non-Black charitable institutions. The Governor should restore to the Black Community the number one Black self- help institution in the State of New York.

Press Statement

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 18, 2007

Contact: Larry A Barton
Phone: 239-313-1937
email: lbperf@juno.com

ALONG CAME A DESTROYER, ELIOT SPITZER

THE CASE FOR THE BLACK UNITED FUND OF NEW YORK

American history records that individual and organized mass efforts by Black people to empower and/or defend themselves and their institutions have been met with overt and covert acts of destruction that are often committed by government officials, their enforcement agencies or collaborating “agents”. Their objective is to neutralize or terminate with *extreme prejudice* “offending” Black leaders and institutions —the necessary instruments to exercising real power.

One needs only look at the successes of Acting Assistant Attorney General Harrison Barrett (1916) against Callie House and the National Ex-slave Mutual Relief, Bounty and Pension Association, the first reparations movement, as documented by Dr. Mary Frances Berry in *My Face Is Black Is True*; the infamous Assistant Attorney General J. Edgar Hoover (1921) against Marcus Garvey and the United Negro Improvement Association, the largest Black self-help empowerment movement based on economic development in US history; and, again, (Federal) Bureau of Investigation Director J. Edgar Hoover (1960s – 70s) against the Black Panther Party, advocates and promoters of self-defense, civil rights and community anti-poverty programs. Do we need mention Paul Robeson, Fannie Lou Hamer, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. or Malcolm X?

Recently along came another infamous “official of destruction” to join those users of hypocrisy, deceit, deception, terror and fear to wield and abuse power from a position of government authority. Unlike previous destroyers, the latest, former Attorney General Eliot Spitzer and now Governor, is alive, but not doing so well right here in New York. He has even arrogantly crowned himself “The F#@ing Steamroller”! Others dubbed him the “Sheriff of Wall Street”.

As the nation’s most notorious and third worst state attorney general, Spitzer had neutralized or terminated, using intimidation and “hostile takeovers”, the Urban League of North Eastern New York, Hale House, and Black United Fund of New York. These heavy handed acts under cover of law have been used against Black people and institutions that dared challenge or threaten the status quo of the established order of power relationships, i.e., the “pecking order”.

The disparate and discriminatory treatments of Black leaders and institutions by then Attorney General Spitzer are in stark contrast to those accorded the World Jewish Congress, World Jewish Congress American Section, Gloria Wise Boys & Girls Club (now Gloria Wise Community Center) and Air America, and the New York State Sheriff’s Association et al, all with official findings of egregious violations of law. Even the *Chronicle of Philanthropy (February 2006)* stated Spitzer, a candidate for governor trying to not offend the powerful New York Jewish community, was

“overly lenient with the congress,” where former Attorney General Robert Abrams is legal counsel. The offenses at Gloria Wise were described by a

Department of Investigations Commissioner to the *New York Post* (October 7, 2006), as “the worst case of wrongdoing by a non-profit contractor she's seen since taking office.” Cooperation was sought and offered; agreements were reached; violations were ignored or forgiven; the organizations survived; and their leaders escaped really unscathed.

Ironically, 27 years ago, December 3, 1980, as a representative of the Black Workers Alliance of IBM Employees, I joined with Kermit Eady to hold another historic press conference that challenged the IBM Corporation to open its annual employee (payroll deductions) giving campaign to the Black United Fund of New York, only recently founded in 1979 by Bro. Eady.

The successful breakthrough against an established monopoly dominated by United Way marked the beginning of a new institution controlled and lead by determined Black people committed to the vision inspired by Walter Bremond (1933 – 1982), founder of the Black United Fund Movement. This *was* a movement based on the philosophy, principles and practices of self-help to empower the Black community through the organization and application of its own human, financial and capital resources, i.e., *community venture philanthropy* (circa 1974) to support its own growth and development from the bottom up. BUFNY was designed to decisively break the status quo of dependency and control by forces and resources outside the Black community.

The BUFNY empowerment experiment conducted over 24 years (1979 – 2003) certainly had its survival and development problems and struggles within hostile environments, but was an undeniable and proven success that had a tremendous and far reaching impact in workplace fundraising, affordable housing and business development, jobs creation, advanced technology integration projects, mass media ownership (WCKL radio), community-based programs support — domestic and international— and more. It was then that Attorney General Spitzer, using his Black Republican agents, began an investigation (November 2002, based on an anonymous complaint) that has not resulted in any official findings, not generated any charges, not officially ended (now over 5 years), not enabled BUFNY “to flourish”, but has resulted in the complete destruction of the Black United Fund of New York.

The willful destruction has caused the loss of millions in assets, contributions and business income revenues; loss of access to the payroll deduction marketplaces; wasting of a 24-year legacy of pioneering development and human resources investments; unjust tarnishing of personal reputations; discarding of valuable personal property; suffering from loss of livelihoods; abandonment of an historic mission; loss of historical records, squandering of unprecedented opportunities and potential for the future. Yet, to date, no one has had to answer for these crimes and betrayals.

This was a major and intentional *termination with extreme prejudice* for the Black community enabled and set in motion by Eliot Spitzer and sanctioned by those who would benefit. Questions need to be answered. Restitution needs to be made. The truth needs to be pursued and the guilty identified. The abusers and investigators need to be investigated.