



**LOS ANGELES
BLACK WORKER
CENTER**

Advisory, April 6, 2015 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Joe Newlin - 626-379-8373, j@vsbly.org

Link to advisory in PDF format: bit.ly/20140406BWCrelease

New Data Tells Tale of Two Public Construction Projects for Black Workers

**Crenshaw Line welcomes black workers,
but discrimination persists at other LA sites**

What: LA must address the Black job crisis! The LA Black Worker Center calls on the City of Los Angeles to prioritize an equity agenda by establishing an Office of Labor Standards and Enforcement to enforce workplace anti-discrimination laws at the local level. The Los Angeles Black Worker Center will hold a prayer circle and action to release new numbers about black worker employment on a handful of Los Angeles's largest public construction projects. Findings come from community-led monitoring of four sites over the past three months. Among the findings:

- In close partnership with community groups, Crenshaw Line has hit 24% in employment of black workers.
- Hanover Company's 1000 Grand Avenue development in Downtown Los Angeles, which received city tax subsidies, had just 4% black worker hires.

Who:

Labor leaders from Coalition for Responsible and Equitable Economic Development (CREED); Rev. Dr. Cecil "Chip" Murray; Ron Hassan, President of NAACP Beverly Hills/Hollywood, Workers/representatives from the Los Angeles Black Worker Center, SEIU Local 721, SCOPE, LA CAN

When/Where:

Wednesday, April 8, 2015

6:00 am prayer circle/press conference

Hanover construction site, 1000 S. Grand Avenue, Downtown Los Angeles

9:30 am city hall action/press conference

Los Angeles City Hall, South Steps

Why:

“‘Black Lives Matter’ has awakened many Americans to a two-tier system for African Americans--the same goes for jobs,” says Lola Smallwood-Cuevas, founder of the Los Angeles Black Worker Center. “Los Angeles needs to step up to enforce anti-discrimination laws.”

Visuals: Clergy leaders in prayer circle with community members; Black workers in construction work clothes, signs that read “Do you see me now?”

Contact Joe Newlin to schedule interviews at 626-379-8373, j@vsbly.org

###

The Los Angeles Black Worker Center works to reverse the Black Jobs Crisis by increasing access to quality jobs, reducing employment discrimination, and improving industries that employ Black workers through action and unionization. The center seeks to change public policies & corporate practices in Los Angeles to advance economic justice for black workers and their families. <http://lablackworkercenter.org/>