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PRESS RELEASE

AWARDEE PRESENTS UNEXPECTED CHECK *Atlanta Business League's CEO of the Year Donates \$25,000*

(ATLANTA GA May 19, 2009) More than 600 filled the seats of the Atlanta Marriott Marquis' Atrium ballroom for the 31st annual CEO Appreciation Luncheon, hosted by the Atlanta Business League.

Six well-known people received honors in five categories. However, one of the biggest surprises in the program took place near the end of the ceremony. Robert Fornaro, CEO of AirTran Airways, graciously accepted his accolades and then asked the chairman and president for the Atlanta Business League to join him at the podium.

ABL President Leona Barr-Davenport stood on his left and 2009 Chairman Erica Qualls joined him on the right as he reached in his jacket pocket and extemporaneously presented the organization with a check for \$25,000.

AirTran was the presenting sponsor for the luncheon which also honored Mayor Shirley Franklin with the year's Catalyst award; Reverend Joseph Lowery and his wife, Mrs. Evelyn Lowery with the Trailblazer award; Michael Martin, the president of Turner Associates/Architects Planners, Inc as the recipient of the League's Leadership Awards; and George Andrews, the president and CEO of Capital City Bank and Trust with the Entrepreneur of the Year award.

The Atlanta Business League is an affiliate of the Negro Business League founded by Booker T Washington as a national organization in 1900. The ABL seeks to foster the growth and development of successful women and African-American owned businesses in the Metro Atlanta area. The ABL encourages entrepreneurship and patronage of minority owned enterprises.

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Pictured in photo from left to right:

Erica Qualls, 2009 Board Chair, Atlanta Business League / General Manager, Atlanta

Marriott Marquis

Robert Fornaro, CEO, AirTran Airways

Leona Barr-Davenport, President & CEO, Atlanta Business League