

# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

## **Atlanta Business League Plans to Reverse Economic Downfall**

*November 30, 2009. Atlanta, GA* – One of Atlanta’s most important business assessments will occur during the Atlanta Business League’s Third Annual Congress on the State of Black Business, held on December 3, 2009 at Morehouse College Leadership Center. Attendees will include local business leaders, and elected and appointed officials from the six counties surrounding Atlanta.

The Congress will make recommendations on how black businesses and consumers can have a greater economic impact on Metro Atlanta. This year’s theme is “Partnering for a Common Cause...Our Communities” and the keynote speaker is Mayor Willie Burns, Chairman, Georgia Association of Black Mayors. ABL’s goal is to 1) increase Black business involvement in development and contract spending, 2) influence government transactions and involvement with black-owned businesses, and 3) discuss how black-owned businesses can contribute leadership and participation to help Atlanta succeed.

The Congress is spearheaded by Joseph Hudson, Vice Chair of the ABL’s Public Policy Committee, and is supported by approximately 30 Host Delegate Conveners including Gregory & Juanita Baranco (Baranco Automotive Group), William Clement (Atlanta Life Company), Janis Ware, (The Atlanta Voice), Kent Matlock (Matlock & Associates), and Daniel Halpern (Jackmont Hospitality).

The Congress includes discussion of The Economic Impact of Black Businesses in the Atlanta Region, a report commissioned by the Atlanta Business League. The report examines entrepreneurship, spending habits, and buying power of black Atlantans. The Congress also includes keynotes, discussions, networking, continental breakfast and lunch.

The Atlanta Business League is led by Leona Barr-Davenport and is one of the country’s oldest business organizations, established in 1933 as an affiliate of Dr. Booker T. Washington’s National Business League. The organization fosters the growth, creation, and development of successful business enterprises owned, operated and managed by African-Americans in metropolitan Atlanta.

For more details about the ABL’s Congress on the State of Black Business in Metro Atlanta, please contact the Atlanta Business League at 404.584.8126, Joseph Hudson at 404-768.1313 or visit [www.AtlantaBusinessLeague.org](http://www.AtlantaBusinessLeague.org).

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