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BLACK AMERICAN POLITICAL ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA TO HOST HISPANIC AND AFRICAN AMERICAN DIALOGUE AT 37TH ANNUAL STATEWIDE CONVENTION IN SAN DIEGO OCTOBER 16TH – 18TH

Second Hispanic and African American Dialogue to promote a deep conversation on cross cultural connections in San Diego's communities of color

(SAN DIEGO, CA) Monday, September 28, 2015 -- On Saturday, October 17th from 12:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., The Black American Political Association of California will host an important conversation with top statewide community leaders. In conversations started on April 10, 2015 at the University of San Diego, more than fifty leaders set the tone for the Second Hispanic and African American Dialogue to be held at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel October 17th.

The event will contribute to bringing the Hispanic and African American communities together to promote grassroots-level advancement of community leadership in anticipation of the 2016 election year.

Dr. Willie Blair, BAPAC San Diego Chapter Chairman said, "During the State Convention, the Black Community and others will sit down face to face with individuals and groups of the burgeoning Latino population to strategize regarding how together we will "solution" our way out of poverty and hopelessness - and thereby reduce the misery index that has historically "overburdened" both communities. The beauty of this effort is so visionary - that just as it did at the first April 10th Dialogue - it will draw other ethnicities who will want to participate in this dialogue, i.e. Native Americans, Asians/Pacific Islanders, Caucasians, etc."

Cecil Steppe, revered former CEO of the Urban League of San Diego, and Rafael Castellanos, Port of San Diego Commissioner, will moderate the discussion. BAPAC's Bi-National Affairs Director, Maria Acela Reed Stacey said, "As the first Hispanic woman appointed to the Executive Board of BAPAC, one of the most influential African American organizations in San Diego, it is an honor and a serious responsibility to serve as lead facilitator for two communities that, for decades, have been struggling to become one in spite of their similar challenges. My vision is to serve as a bridge, along with other leaders, on this important matter."

“This year’s BAPAC convention presents an important opportunity for the Black and Latino communities. Separately, they have scaled the far side of the mountain, sometimes successfully, but often times with great difficulty and struggle. If these two great communities would climb that mountain together there is nothing on this earth that can keep them from reaching the top!” said Dr. Willie Blair, BAPAC San Diego Chapter Chairman.

BAPAC is a non-partisan 501(c)3 charitable organization dedicated to supporting transformational opportunities for underserved communities. “BAPAC San Diego Chapter is in the initial stages of forming a task force dedicated to productive dialogue between African Americans and Hispanics in San Diego County. We are looking to consolidate this conversation at the state level during BAPAC’s 37th Annual Statewide Convention, “ said Ellen Nash, Convention Committee Co-Chair.

Journalists are welcomed and encouraged to cover BAPAC’s convention to hear directly from local and state officials on issues concerning Black and Hispanic Americans and all of California’s underserved. For more information, visit www.bapacsd.org or call Ellen Nash at (619) 665–3878.

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BAPAC is a 501(c)3 charitable organization established in 1978 by 20 key political leaders, including the late Los Angeles Mayor Tom Bradley and former San Francisco Mayor and California Assemblyman Willie Brown. BAPAC’s mission is to ensure full political, social, and economic participation for California’s African American population and has over 25 active chapters statewide.

For over 20 years the San Diego Chapter of BAPAC has helped reduce the misery index that still exists for San Diego County families and is over 200 hundred members strong, supporting initiatives in early childhood education, employment assistance, and youth intervention. The organization’s registered voters recently helped to elect San Diego County’s first Black State Legislator, Shirley Weber; San Diego’s first Black female City Councilwoman, Myrtle Cole; and Lemon Grove’s first Black Councilmember, Racquel Vazquez.