



B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S. Inc.
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brothersofpaterson.com

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Maurice Moore
Syril Morris
James Parker
Tony Pierce
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Kenny Rogers
Gary Scott
Brian Veal
Jerry Weeks
Michael Williams
Jeff Wyche

**Brothers Reaching
Out To Help Everyone
Rebuild Self**

May 17, 2013

To: Community Organizations, Community Leaders and Concerned Citizens

The B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S. of Paterson, Inc., is a non-profit organization based in Paterson, NJ comprised of men from various backgrounds with a mission "To create an environment that influences, enables and empowers the men in our community towards the activities to succeed in life through social, financial and educational awareness." We have been extremely active within our community for nearly 13 years. We have participated in a variety of community service activities that have positively affected the citizens of Paterson regardless of age, race or gender. We are truly committed to uplifting our community by working to improve the circumstances of our fellow citizens. Since the inception of our organization we have worked tirelessly with numerous agencies and organizations supporting the community service work that enables us to create the environment that we refer to in our mission.

On behalf of the B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S. of Paterson, Inc., we are reaching out to our fellow organizations and citizens in order to help preserve our heritage. As you all may be well aware of, the Juneteenth Celebration is highly significant as it is celebrated to be the freedom day or emancipation day commemorating the announcement of the abolishment of slavery in the United States. This significant date is recognized as a state holiday observed in 42 states throughout our country, paying homage to the contributions that African Americans have made throughout the world. Here in Paterson, this day has been celebrated with our annual African American Heritage Parade and Festival that travels up Dr. Martin L. King Way and concludes with a festival at Eastside Park.

It is with a heavy heart and huge disappointment that there has even been a discussion regarding the possibility that this year's African American Parade & Festival may be cancelled due to the lack of funds needed to pay for the entertainment, supplies and security, along with the administration of this event. Fortunately the B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S. of Paterson, Inc., and the

African American Heritage Parade Committee refused to accept a lack of funding as the reason to desecrate our heritage and embarrass our ancestors by not pulling together this vitally essential event. Therefore we have come up with a plan to raise the \$50,000 needed to pay off past debt, the successful operation of this year's parade and festival as well as secure the much needed start up money for next year's event. The plan is to secure \$1,000 a piece from 50 of our communities most concerned and caring organizations to reach this total. We can also accept \$500 from 100 community organization leaders, politicians, businesses or concerned citizens to reach our goal in order to execute our annual African American Heritage Parade & Festival in honor of Juneteenth. This historic day enables us to properly respect our rich history and our ancestors who paved the way for us.

Please be advised that we have a live telethon scheduled for June 2, 2013 which will be aired on Paterson Public Access Channel 75 to publically acknowledge all of those organizations and citizens who have committed to this historic moment. All those who are interested in donating can make your pledge online at www.brothersofpaterson.com or call 973-703-1684 to speak with Mr. Casey Melvin to discuss your tax-exempt pledge.

All pledges made before the telethon will be announced throughout the telethon on June 2, 2013 and will be announced throughout the parade and during the festival on Saturday June 15, 2013. It is estimated that over 10,000 residents participate in either the celebration or the parade leading to the festival and all festival activities. This advertisement is sure to bolster the patronage of any business that supports this event.

Currently the following organizations, individuals, politicians and concerned citizens have committed to the pledge of \$1,000.00:

1. The B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S. of Paterson, Inc.
2. Assemblyman Benji Wimberly
3. Freeholder T.J. Best
4. Mike Jackson (Jacksonville Restaurant)

Sincerely,

Mr. Zatiti Moody, 1st Vice President

B.R.O.T.H.E.R.S. of Paterson, Inc.