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Bank of America Hunger Strike by FMCRC Chair Al Piña and the Florida Boycott Led by Councilwoman Glorious Johnson Is Cancelled

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“We are thrilled to announce that Bank of America Florida has come to an agreement on the development of a Memorandum of Understanding that includes an annual CRA-Minority Community Reinvestment Review that will bring transparency and accountability. The president of Bank of America Florida and Bank of America are commended for looking out of the box and working with the Florida Minority Community Reinvestment Coalition Team to bring change to Florida community reinvestment. This is a critical change in time for Florida and the readiness of Bank of America, Chase, and Wells Fargo in the creation of jobs and community revitalization of distressed and underrepresented communities, businesses and organizations.” said Councilwoman Glorious Johnson.

Councilwoman Glorious Johnson stated, “I would like to thank Mr. Al Piña, Chairman of the Florida Minority Community Reinvestment Coalition for his commitment, dedication and hard work in making this change possible.” Mr. Piña was on his third day of the ‘Hunger Strike.’ But, after the negotiations on Wednesday afternoon with Bank of America, the hunger strike and boycott was called off. “Bank of America’s business model in Florida is a symbol of the “old south”. It is now time for change in Florida for African Americans, Latinos and Asians.” Si Se Puede, Al Piña.

It is now time for us to roll up our sleeves and get to work to rebuild our communities, our businesses, and our organizations. Far too long, certain communities were neglected to a point of gentrification while developers began to take over and develop what they wanted for profits. Many of these communities are in the minorities communities across the city of Jacksonville. What these communities were lacking were job creations, the development of a consumer base that would benefit the community and the development of a new community reinvestment model.

Councilwoman Johnson is planning a meeting with the Presidents and representatives of the Banks for a tour of certain communities in the Jacksonville area to discuss the new reinvestment model.

According to Johnson, “...It’s not just the banks that should change from the old model to the new model of reinvesting in the communities, but foundations and corporations such as AT&T must be socially responsive to minority communities and organizations. As stated by Mr. Al Piña, “I am placing both the Foundations and AT&T in the “batters box” and hope they will be open to working to develop a new community reinvestment model to Florida”

When we invest in the communities, we are placing ourselves in a win-win solution. We know what the problems are and we are about the business of solving them. The crime and social abuse problems facing our communities across the State of Florida and our country are symptoms of the problem. Therefore, we must work together by offering opportunities, creating jobs, including people of all races to the table, and being more transparent and accountable to the people from the local, state, and federal levels, commented Johnson. “This is a ‘glorious day’ in Jacksonville,” added Councilwoman Glorious Johnson.

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