



**National Black Chamber of Commerce®**  
**1350 Connecticut Avenue NW Suite 405, Washington DC 20036**  
**202-466-6888 202-466-4918fax [www.nationalbcc.org](http://www.nationalbcc.org) [info@nationalbcc.org](mailto:info@nationalbcc.org)**

December 5, 2011]

Re: Your Presidential Campaign

Dear Candidate :

The National Black Chamber of Commerce® proudly represents the 1.9 million Black owned business owners within the United States. We will be celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention in Atlanta, GA during July 19 – 21, 2012. The NBCC is the largest Black business association in the world.

During the campaign season of the year 2000, we issued each candidate a “Request for Leadership” questionnaire. All candidates but one responded in writing and we posted all responses on our website. The intent of the questionnaire is for our members to understand upfront the position of each candidate on issues that are of much interest to us. We do not make endorsements

Enclosed is our Request for Leadership 2012. We formally ask that your team prepare a response and forward to us. We will post it on our website without comment. This is meant to be an educational tool for our members and followers.

Your response is dearly appreciated. Good luck on your campaign and may America choose the best candidate.

Sincerely,

Harry C. Alford  
President/CEO

## REQUEST FOR LEADERSHIP

### BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT (Business Growth/Job Creation) –

1. **Federal and local government procurement programs:** The US Supreme Court has clearly stated twice (Croson Decision & Adarand Decision) that special procurement programs can be used to offset discriminatory practices if such practices are proven to exist. Also, the remedies should be strictly tailored to the groups that are negatively affected. The federal government needs to perform adequate Disparate Impact Studies to guide any such programs. The first Clinton Administration pledged to perform such studies in each of the ten federal regions. It never did and nor did the Bush Administrations or the current administration. Will you pledge to perform these studies and tailor programs per the Supreme Court direction within the first two years of your administration?

2. **Free Trade Promotion:** It took years for us to execute Free Trade Agreements with South Korea

,  
Columbia  
and  
Panama

. Our global competitors are taking advantage of this lethargy by aggressively signing free trade agreements and partnerships with various nations around the world. Will your administration support more free trade initiatives? If so, what would be your priority?

3. **Africa Growth and Opportunity Act:** This program (signed during the first George W. Bush Administration) has great promise for more trade activity with the fastest growing continent in the world. However, our members are having unfair competition placed on them by dubious firms from several Asian nations. These firms bring their materials to various nations in Africa; “buy” a minority partner who

possesses AGOA certification and then sends the products on to the United States duty free (under the program). The intent of the program is to spur growth among indigenous African firms and US companies. So far it has been a poor start. How would your administration free the program from “deceit” and improve the amount of activity being generated from real AGOA activity.

**4. A Written and Implemented Energy Policy:** Energy is the lifeblood of our economy. To remain a strong nation we must be self sufficient and reduce dependency on foreign nations. We are blessed with great natural resources such as oil, natural gas, coal, etc. We also have been improving the utilization of alternative energy methods. Will your administration write and implement an energy policy that would maximize the use of our resources and encourage our energy companies to pursue increases in our supply levels while recognizing good environmental stewardship? Will your administration speed up the building of pipe lines and the permitting process in offshore drilling and exploration?

**5. Broadband Deployment:** Our nation is in need of much more spectrum to greatly increase the amount of broadband deployment in all communities. There is an immediate need to increase our deployment in order to remain competitive on a global basis. How would your administration encourage further expansion by our telecom providers?

**6. Section 3 of the HUD Act:** Section 3 of the HUD Act (24CFR part 135) is an economic opportunity program designed to provide first time jobs for those living in public housing and under the poverty level. It promotes Section 3 firms (those who hire Section 3 residents) via HUD funded contracting. The law has been on the books since 1968 but has yet to be implemented anywhere in the United States. This shame costs public housing residents at least 100,000 jobs per year and a chance to break the poverty cycle via worthy employment. How would your administration become the first to fully implement Section 3?

## FISCAL DISCIPLINE –

**1. Debt Reduction:** Our current debt is a serious threat to our economic well being and national security. How and how much would you decrease the national debt during your

administration?

2. **Federal Budget:** Will your first budget be balanced? How would you go about doing this?

3. **Regulatory Accountability:** We support the content of the current Regulatory Accountability Act of 2011 (H.R. 3010). It is designed to update and modernize the federal rulemaking process via more transparency and public participation. The intent is to make sure that new regulations are well-designed to meet their objectives without causing economic damage to our economy which would kill jobs. How would your administration ensure that regulations are well planned and would not cause economic harm?

4. **Tax Reform:** Do you think our Internal Revenue Code is relevant? If not, how would you change it? Is there a real need to maintain the Estate Tax?

5. **Freddie Mac and Fannie Mae:** These two government sponsored enterprises played a valuable role in American home ownership. Over the last twenty years they went on a “road of betrayal” and have played a key role in our current economic challenges. Both were meant to be limited in their “shelf life”. Is it time to close down these two institutions? If not, what changes would you make to prevent a recurrence of negative and damaging actions by them?

## SOCIETAL POLICY –

1. **Immigration:** America is not “half full” and can certainly absorb immigrants who come here for a better life. There is a false perception that the greater amount of illegal immigration comes from the southern side of our national border. A principal of one African nation informed us that there are 400,000 of his nation’s citizens living legally in the United States

and there is at least another 200,000 living here with undocumented status. It appears to us that no one really understands the enormity of the situation and how to improve it. What is your answer to illegal immigration? Do we need to change our road to the citizenship process?

2. **Illegal Drugs:** The use and abuse of illegally obtained drugs in this nation is epidemic. One of the biggest challenges to our business owners is being able to have a drug free workforce. There was a time when only certain communities would be infested with this problem. Today, all communities are touched in some way by this vile epidemic. America needs to come to terms with this and somehow correct it. How during the four years of your administration would you move to address this?