

INDIANA BLACK EXPO, INC.

{SINCE 1970}

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STATEMENT FROM TANYA BELL, PRESIDENT & CEO, INDIANA BLACK EXPO

We want to assure the Indianapolis community, state of Indiana and nation that plans for the 41st Summer Celebration of Indiana Black Expo are alive and well. We anticipate this year's event exceeding last year in both attendance and the scope of events and activities available to the thousands who make this event the centerpiece of their summer schedule.

Today we want to announce that Academy Award winning actress Cicely Tyson will receive our Living Legend Award at the Corporate Luncheon (see attached press release). The "Our Celebration" media campaign to promote a positive atmosphere for youth will launch Monday. Registration for the Education Conference featuring national keynote Geoffrey Canada has spiraled from 43 three weeks ago to just over 300 and we expect to meet our goal of 500 attendees. For the first time ever, we will present a 90 x 30 NASCAR exhibit and a Mardi Gras Indian performance, procession and seminar in our exhibition hall. And this weekend we initiate a 12-city tour in Indiana to promote Summer Celebration.

It is imperative that patrons of the event, supporters, exhibitors and sponsors realize that even though we may be confronted with an internal discussion revolving around staff, these individuals along with more than 700 volunteers recognize that the first priority is to put Summer Celebration ahead of any other issues confronting IBE at this time.

Regarding the recent media discussions, Indiana Black Expo employees never shared the letter submitted to press with me. Because I have an open-door policy, employees are always encouraged to share any of their concerns. Periodically, individuals have taken advantage of that opportunity but matters discussed were the kinds of issues common in the workplace. In the four years of my tenure as President/CEO, there have not been any previous complaints filed against me by a member of the IBE staff. Also, contrary to the published report, all full-time staff did not sign off on the complaint.

We remain confident that the emphasis of all involved in the IBE family from this point will be the 41st Summer Celebration July 7 through July 17 and that we will weather any storm with our collect focus placed on our common goal and mission.