



COMMUNITY NEWS *from the
Offices of Oakland City Councilmember Desley Brooks*

MEDIA RELEASE

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DESLEY BROOKS SELECTED TO JOIN NATIONAL LEADERS FOR PRESTIGIOUS ASPEN INSTITUTE'S THINK TANK SEMINAR ON RACE AND EQUITY

(Oakland, CA - May 15, 2006) Oakland City Councilperson Desley Brooks has been selected by the renowned Aspen Institute's Roundtable on Community Change to join national leaders in discussions on racial equity and youth development.

The Aspen Institute is a U.S. nonprofit cultural organization founded in 1950 dedicated to "fostering enlightened leadership and open-minded dialogue." The institute is headquartered in Washington, D.C. and has campuses in Aspen, Colorado (its original home), New York City, Santa Barbara, California, and Queenstown, Maryland. The institute holds regular seminars, policy programs, conferences and leadership development initiatives, with the goal of promoting nonpartisan inquiry and "an appreciation for timeless values."

Brooks was selected by the Institute for her expressed concern related to youth issues, as well as her ability to influence the scale and scope of resources devoted to helping young people achieve their full potential.

"I am honored to have been selected for this tremendous opportunity to engage in dialogue with other decision makers and leaders from across the country," said Brooks.

The 4-day June seminar provides an opportunity for the selected four senior leaders from around the country to immerse themselves in readings, dialogue, and collective work around issues of race, ethnicity and equity in America.

The primary aims of the discussion are two-fold: to re-examine the underlying assumptions, beliefs and values that shape contemporary race and equity discourse in

America, and to enable participants to join forces with colleagues to apply these insights to the social, economic, and political realities in their respective communities.

Kimberle Williams Crenshaw, Professor of Law at UCLA and Columbia, with expertise in race and law, and civil rights; and Sharon E. Jones, a diversity consultant, with expertise in race and law, and organizational dynamics will moderate the four person roundtable.

The Institute's Roundtable on Community Change is modeled after their signature Aspen Executive Seminar and is their policy program that promotes community revitalization and equity in poor communities across the country.

For more information about these seminars, visit www.aspenroundtable.org