



**Wells Fargo YES-Bank of America NO  
National Coalition of Puerto Rican Chambers of Commerce and Florida State Asian  
Organizations Join FMCRC Bank of America Boycott:**

**"We thank the National Coalition of Puerto Rican Chambers of Commerce for both their leadership and courage to bring change to Florida. Our message to Bank of America will be clear-Enough is Enough. Empty CRA agreements that have no impact what so ever in our communities. It is appropriate that I starve myself being that our communities are starving for investments that will create jobs. Our businesses are starving for loans that they are not getting. Our organizations are starving for philanthropy that will help build capacity. Our families are starving for non subprime home loans that will provide a future and not foreclosure by Bank of America. Enough is Enough"**

**AL Pina, Chair-FMCRC**

**National Coalition of Puerto Rican Chambers of Commerce Speak Out and Support  
Boycott:**

**ATTN: Al Pina, Chair**

**Florida Minority Community**

**Reinvestment Coalition**

**Mr. Pina,**

**I take this opportunity to congratulate the Florida Minority Community Reinvestment Coalition (FMCRC) for its work on behalf of all Americans, in particular, Minority and Hispanic communities. The Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) is of concern to many chambers and business groups, as well as, community grass root organizations. Its responsibility, as set forth by the United States Congress, is to have the banking institutions that conduct business in Minority and Hispanic communities to reinvest in those neighborhoods that are known for their lack of economic resources. The CRA program contributes much needed capital for economic development and infrastructure improvements that help create business opportunities, jobs and ultimately contribute to the community's tax base.**

**The National Coalition of Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce wishes to thank the FMCRC for taking the leadership in addressing the CRA issue and congratulate them on their success during the Seventh Annual Florida Minority Economic Development Summit held in Tampa, Florida. I want to express our support and ask that the membership of our coalition to join forces with the FMCRC in boycotting Bank of America for its terrible record and lack of interest in expanding their CRA program into Minority and Hispanic communities.**

Sincerely,

**Luis DeRosa, VP**

**National Coalition**

**Puerto Rican Chambers of Commerce**

**Florida Asian Organizations Speak Out Against Bank of America:**

**Dear FMCRC:**

**Please know that as State Chair of the Filipino-American Political Alliance of Florida (FAPA-FL), a bona-fide political action committee (PAC) duly registered with the State of Florida-- I'm calling the FAPA leadership to join FMCRC's Bank of America Boycott.**

**Keep up the good work -- and thanks for all your efforts on behalf of Florida's minorities. Take care -- and God bless!**

**Ernie**

**Ernesto G. Ramos  
Chair-- FAPA-FL**

**As President of the Fil-Am council of NE Florida. I am notifying my member organizations (over 20 different organizations) to join to boycott BofA. Pls inform us when shall we close our accounts and transfer to a minority bank of your suggestion. I might not be at the Summit but our support is with you,**

**Regards.**

**Dr. Mel Carbonell, MD**

**Your dedication to the cause, I pray do not end up in Martyrdom. I am very grateful that you become part of my life and to know you. It is very seldom in someone's life to the opportunity to be involved with you and learn from you. GOD BLESS YOU AND PROTECT YOU. IT IS NOWIN GOD'S WILL AND GOD IS ALWAYS WITH YOU, AND NEVER FORSAKEYOU.**

**Thank you for giving us the opportunity to part of the FMCRC SUMMIT in Clearwater Beach, FL.**

**At your service,**

**Dick Aquino**

**FAVS President**

**NEFVC 1st Vice Chairman**

**DAV Volunteer Dept Service Officer**

**DAV Chapter 7 Judge Advocate**

**FL NOTR 510 Holy Rat**

**ACFV FI Representative**

**BTC USN/Retired**

**Other Asian Organizations That Join "Wells Fargo YES-Bank of America NO"**

**Organization of Chinese Americans-South Florida Chapter**

**United Chinese Association of Florida**

**Florida Chinese Federation**

**Miss Florida Asia**

**Puerto Rican Chambers Join the FMCRC Bank of America Florida Boycott Planning Committee to attend a Florida community press conference to announce a Florida boycott of Bank of America:**

**The South West Florida Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce is requesting its State Coalition Members to support and stand together with FMCRC boycott against Bank of America lending practices in the State of Florida.**

**Please forward your support ASAP.**

**Bobby Perez  
President  
South West Florida Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce, Inc.  
P.O.Box2006 Ft. Myers Fl, 33902  
Tele: 239-878-5082**

**Al Pina is a man with integrity and guts. I know he is man with courage and cares about the people he is personally sacrificing his time and energy for. On behalf of the Puerto Rican Chamber of Commerce of Palm Beach County, we support his quest and boycott Bank of America along with the rest of the Florida Puerto Rican/Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.**

**The Puerto Rican Community in Florida is playing a key role in helping the State grow and prosper in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. The Puerto Rico Chamber of Commerce of Northeast Florida joins and supports Al Pina, President, Minority Community Reinvestment Coalition (FMCRC) in Boycott to the Bank of America.**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**The Florida Puerto Rican/Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is in support of boycotting Bank of America and stands together, shoulder to shoulder, with the MINORITY COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT COLIATION (FMCRC).**

**We are honored to join FMCRC in Boycott to the Bank of America for Their record of lending to minority businesses in Florida. Their lending policies toward minority communities and minority businesses are unfair and unacceptable. Bank of America must take an active role to change their lending policies and practices effecting Florida's minority communities and businesses.**

**We encourage all our Puerto Rican/Hispanic Coalition Members to join in support of this boycott.**

**"Wells Fargo Si (yes) and Bank of Americano"**

**May 21, 2009.** The Minority Chamber of Commerce joins the Florida Minority Community Reinvestment Coalition (FMCRC) in Boycott to the Bank of America for their record of lending to minority businesses in Florida is not acceptable. They are absent in support of Florida minority business organizations. We will tell our members that it is Wells Fargo YES and Bank of America NO. This national campaign to pressure the bank to change its harmful policies to Minority organizations and other issues affecting our communities.

The bank boycott has already found support among most major socially responsible U.S. investment Minority firms, unions, hundreds of faith organizations, and professionals. We urge different partners and Chamber of Commences in our state of Florida, to endorse the boycott. The negative consequences of Bank of America policies have been documented many times in the last years by FMCRC movements, the Chamber of Commerce, non-governmental organizations and other leaders. The failure of the last years of discrimination, structural adjustment, lack of loans for Minority Groups and 'market fundamentalism' to raise living standards nationwide, and the dramatic decline in growth, especially in underdeveloped cities, should be cause for serious concern", Said, Doug Mayorga, National Director of the Minority Chamber of Commerce, "We believe that reasons to join the Bank of America Boycott are compelling. The Minority Chamber of Commerce should add its voice to the thousands of entrepreneurs around our communities opposing the devastating effects of Bank of America policies again disadvantage organizations. We urge the FMCRC and his Chairman, Al Pina, to continue its tradition of taking positions against social, economic and environmental in justice in our country".

**About the Minority Chamber of Commerce:** The main goal of the Minority Chamber of Commerce is to foster cooperation and growth of the private sector with Minority Companies through information sharing, networking, and public-private sector dialogue. It is active on issues of common interest to members such as trade facilitation, cross-border trade agreements, and pre shipment financing and capacity building for small and medium-sized Minority enterprises. Our website seeks to promote the Minority Chamber of Commerce as a unique trade-investment-transport hub facilitator for Minority Business Owns and is not limited to other communities.

**More Information:**

**RICKBROWN**

**Public Relations Director**

**info@minoritychamber.net**

**786-260-1965**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**U.T.B United Third Bridge, Inc. a civil rights, educational and cultural organization is in support of boycotting Bank of America and stands together, shoulder to shoulder, with the MINORITY COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT COLIATION (FMCRC).**

**The lending policies for minorities businesses of Bank of America in Florida and other states are unfair and unjust. We are honored to join FMCRC in Boycott to the Bank of America. Bank of America must take an active role to change their lending policies and practices effecting Florida's minority communities and businesses.**

**We encourage all minority businesses, civic and trade associations to join us together with FMCRC in boycotting Bank of America.**

**"Wells Fargo Si (yes) and Bank of Americano"**

**Enough is Enough with Bank of America's lack of social responsibility in Florida. Next week, I am closing my Bank of America accounts and switching bank. We will ask the veterans in our association to do the same. Wells Fargo YES Bank of America NO"**

**Raul Espinosa**

**Founder and President**

**Fairness in Procurement Alliance**

**FMCRC PRESS RELEASE**

**CONTACT: Susan Lewis (941) 284-0688**

**FOR IMMEDIATE**

**May 21, 2009**

**FMCRC ANNOUNCES LAUNCH OF Wells Fargo YES/Bank of America NO  
CAMPAIGN INITIATIVE IN FLORIDA MINORITY COMMUNITY**

***FMCRC CHAIR AL PINA PLANS HUNGER STRIKE JUNE 15TH***

**TAMPA/MIAMI** – The FMCRC Bank of America Florida Boycott Planning Committee, dozens of Florida community, and business organizations will hold a press conference on May 27<sup>th</sup> at 1pm (Sheraton Sand Key Hotel-Island Room 1- Clearwater Beach, FL) to announce the launch of the “Wells Fargo YES/Bank of America NO” campaign. The Bank of America Florida Boycott will request that all Americans protest Bank of America’s policy of continuing to foreclose on the homes of thousands of Americans, raise credit card interest rates, fail to increase credit to struggling businesses, while accepting millions in federal bail-out money. FMCRC Chair Al Pina states “Bank of America remains as the last survivor of the Big 3 Florida banks yet they continue to practice the dangerous policies that led to the historic highs in foreclosures, present credit crunch, loss of jobs, business closures, failure to provide funding that benefits low and modest income individuals. They have taken federal funding, but have not developed any programs to ease the suffering of everyday Americans. It seems the acceptance of federal funding was simply a dividend they accepted to increase their reserves. This is an issue that affects all of Florida and not only our minority communities, businesses and organizations”

Over 50 community and neighborhood organizations have joined FMCRC in the Bank of America Florida Boycott to ensure that change comes to Florida. States City of Jacksonville Councilwoman Glorious Johnson “The past banking practices of Bank of America in Florida are unacceptable. Significant Foreclosures, lack of lending and increasing of credit card rates to not only minority communities, but Florida in general must no longer be accepted of Bank of America. I support this Bank of America initiative by FMCRC and call on all of Florida’s elected officials to send a message to Bank of America that is heard loud and clear”

FMCRC notified Bank of America CEO Ken Lewis in a letter dated April 6, 2009 in an attempt to mediate growing concerns with Bank of America in Florida. The letter highlighted the following concerns:

- Bank of America has a serious lack of lending to minority and small businesses

- Lending to African Americans is only .02% (less than 1%) of its conventional home loans.
- Over 65% of all home loans to minority families in LMI communities were subprime
- Less than 5% of philanthropy funds go to minority non profits
- Lack of overall investments into Florida minority organizations or communities
- There complete lack of a specific community commitments in Florida.
- Credit card rates have been increased even for consumers with good credit
- Home loans necessary to jump start the economy are at historic lows for all groups

In a continued pattern of arrogance by Chairman Ken Lewis, a local Bank of America responded to the letter sent by FMCRC. FMCRC is now calling on newly elected Chairman Dr. William Massey to meet with FMCRC and 20 Florida minority community leaders to discuss resolutions. National minority organizational leaders are responding to the call for Dr. Massey to meet with FMCRC leaders, states the Director of Greenlining Institute Orson Aguilar “Given its history and brand name, Bank of America should be America’s most cherished bank in all communities. It’s a shame that Bank of America has not been able to work out an agreement to serve Florida’s diverse communities and we hope that Bank of America’s new Chairman, Dr. Walter Massey, will fly to Florida soon to resolve this situation.”. In addition, Washington DC based Minority Business Roundtable President Roger A. Campos echoes similar support “We support and join FMCRC efforts to expand opportunities in underserved communities to create economic viability.” And states National Association of Minority Automobile Dealers President Damon Lester “NAMAD encourages Bank of America Chairman Dr. William Massey to meet with leaders of NAMAD and FMCRC to find resolution to increased access, funding and opportunities for Florida minority communities, businesses and organizations”

Florida has witnessed one of the highest foreclosure rates in all of the United States, with Bank of America as a key to this negative trend. “Bank of America must be held accountable for the success of its home loans. Financial Literacy is critical to building our families. Bank of America in Florida has treated our communities in Florida as an absentee landlord. There must be change in the behavior and lack of social responsibility with Bank of America. We call on BofA to meet with FMCRC and its leaders to discuss how to bring this change” states Sylvia Alvarez Director of Housing and Education Alliance.

FMCRC and supporting organizations will use the power of the internet to engage Florida’s minority families and businesses. According to Florida Puerto Rican/Hispanic Chamber of Commerce President “We at the Florida Puerto Rican/Hispanic Chamber of Commerce support this boycott against Bank of America in Florida by FMCRC. The lack of lending to Latino small businesses in Florida is not acceptable. The lack of philanthropy to Florida Latino business organizations is not acceptable. We will engage our families and businesses in the Puerto Rican community that [Wells Fargo Yes and](#)

Bank of America NO via the internet and community events” States Florida Minority Chamber of Commerce President Doug Mayorga “The Florida Minority Chamber of Commerce support both Al Pina and FMCRC in this boycott of Bank of America in Florida. Their lack of lending to minority businesses in Florida is not acceptable. They are absent in support of Florida minority business organizations. We will continue to email our members that it is Wells Fargo YES and Bank of America NO”

The FMCRC Bank of America Florida Boycott Planning Committee will announce at the Press Conference actions needed by Bank of America:

- 1) Immediate meeting with the new Chairman Dr. Massey (20 FMCRC selected minority leaders)
- 2) Annual meeting with CEO and FMCRC Community Reinvestment Review Committee
- 3) Annual CRA review to ensure that there is adequate reinvestment into our communities, families, organizations and businesses. To also ensure minimum subprime loans are being directed to Florida minorities.
- 4) Home lending program to help all Americans
- 5) Foreclosure prevention program to help struggling Americans
- 6) Freeze on all interest increases of credit cards
- 7) Provide loans for automobile purchases
- 8) Increase lending to small businesses
- 9) A minimum of 30% of all philanthropy to go to minority organizations
- 10) A minimum of 25% of all procurement spent goes to minority businesses
- 11) Equity investments into minority funds or businesses
- 12) Launch of a capacity building fund for Florida minority organizations

Recent research by Brookings Institute and Harvard clearly demonstrates the economic link between Florida minority communities and major metro cities. Estimates show that Florida minorities account for approximately 38% of Florida’s population but only 4% of the states Gross Domestic Product. States FMCRC Chair Al Pina “With the economic implosion caused by irresponsible bank behavior, it is now a critical time for all of Florida. The Bank of America of old will no longer be accepted in the Florida of new.

We are committed to see that change comes to Bank of America in Florida. To demonstrate this commitment, on July 15<sup>th</sup>, I will commence a hunger strike and not conclude until Bank of America Chairman Massey agrees to meet and building a new Bank of America in Florida. One that is based on fairness, economic inclusion and socially responsible”

Concludes Dr. Bessie Fletcher, President of Mothers & Daughters Inc. “With the affects of our economy on our families, especially on minorities, I agree that we need Chairman Dr. Massey to work out an agreement to better serve Florida’s diverse communities. This situation needs to be resolved as soon as possible. We support FMCRC on [Wells Fargo YES](#) and [Bank of America NO](#)”