



Greater Phoenix Black Chamber of Commerce
Friday, December 11, 2009
Remarks by Gov. Jan Brewer

Thank you very much.

I am grateful to the Greater Phoenix Black Chamber of Commerce for allowing me to be a part of your 11th Anniversary celebration – and the telling of YOUR story.

And your story -- the story of the Phoenix Black Chamber -- is really the story of free enterprise – the very core of our economic strength.

It is the story of risk-takers, those willing to step into the arena – those who, as Teddy Roosevelt said, actually strive to do the deeds – who know great enthusiasms -- the great devotions -- who spend themselves in a worthy cause.

I think that is YOUR story.

It is the story of Cody Williams.

Of Peter Hemingway.

Of Ron Busby.

And, in a way, it is MY story as well.

I was raised in humble circumstances.

I know what it is like to be a single mom -- while caring for a family. I saw my mother do it.

My father died when I was 10. My mother had to buy a small dress shop to make ends meet. And I worked in that store until the time she sold it when I was 20 years old.

It was, really, a classroom for me – where I learned the importance of hard work and determination – and the challenges faced by business owners.

I thank you for understanding those challenges and standing with me – early on - - in support of my plan for economic recovery.

To make YOUR jobs easier, I am working to create an economic environment that is stable, predictable and dependable.

I am focused on reforming state government so that it makes do with less – and, for that matter, DOES less – so that you have more freedom to grow your businesses without interference.

You do not need new regulations and the heavy hand of government strangling your efforts with needless costs.

So, we are re-examining areas of our tax structure that are undue burdens on your shoulders.

And, we are focusing on how you are treated with property taxes – with business personal property taxes -- and with capital gains taxes.

We are doing all of this because I recognize you are the true community builders. You are its true strength and character.

Your efforts contribute so much to our entrepreneurial spirit, guaranteeing that Arizona's greatness will continue.

I value the Black Chamber's leadership – and I understand Ron will soon be doing ADDITIONAL important things for the National Alliance of African-American Chambers of Commerce.

Ron's good guidance here has meant that your mission – YOUR STORY -- will continue. It means we will continue working together, ensuring Arizona thrives.

Thank you again for allowing me to be a part of your anniversary celebration.

Congratulations on 11 years of successful enterprise.

God bless you, your families and your businesses -- and I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. Thank you.