



NEWS RELEASE

PRESS OFFICE

Release Date: July 2, 2004
Release Number: 04-54

Contact: Raul E. Cisneros (202) 205-7654
Internet Address: <http://www.sba.gov/news>

Statement by U.S. Small Business Administration Administrator Commemorating 40th Anniversary of 1964 Civil Rights Act

WASHINGTON – To commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto issued the following statement:

"The passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 marked a major victory for America's better self. It is a major milestone in our ongoing national quest to give all Americans a fair shot at achieving the American Dream.

“Today, African-Americans who would have been denied equal access to hotels, restaurants, gas stations and other public accommodations 40 years ago, are now proud owners of these very accommodations. But there is still much to be done. Our goal is an ownership society where all Americans will have the opportunity to own their own homes, to exercise greater control over their own health care - and to own their own businesses. The U.S. Small Business Administration is committed to helping make this vision a reality, and to honoring the legacy of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., who dreamt of the day 'when justice rolls down like waters, and righteousness like a mighty stream.'”

###