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Councilman Nash Discusses Business Linkages with Mayors

Of Cape Town and Johannesburg, South Africa

Kansas City, Missouri – City Council Troy Nash, 3rd District – at- Large recently led a delegation to South Africa to discuss business and cultural exchanges between Kansas City and South Africa. Executive Mayor Amos Masondo of Greater Johannesburg hosted Councilman Nash and members of the delegation.

Executive Mayor Masondo joined the political underground structures in Soweto in 1974. This led to this imprisonment on Robben Island in

1975 until 1981. After his release, he joined the Soweto Civic Association (SCA), one of the key civic organizations for the past three decades in South Africa, in which Masondo also played a pioneering role. He became a member of General and Allied Worker's Union (GAWU) in 1981 in which he served in various capacities, including a full-time organizer from 1983 to 1985, as well as Acting General Secretary in 1985. GAWU represented a progressive strand in unionism that sought to ensure greater worker involvement in country and political issues. His active political involvement was discontinued when he was

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detained in June 1985 to March 1986 and again from July 1986 to 1989 under the state of emergency, which barred any form of political activism against the incumbent apartheid government.

"As layoffs continue to mount, African-American businesses are the first to feel the heat. My job is to continue to look for new opportunities and markets for those businesses. My goals is really very simple, use government to open doors for African- American businesses," said Councilman Nash.

Councilman Nash and the Executive Mayor are currently planning a visit by the mayor and South African businessmen and women in 2002 to Kansas City to meet with African-American business representatives and entrepreneurs in Kansas City.