

# BREAKING NEWS

In response to the public outcry from the American Indian business community, the North Carolina Indian Economic Development Initiative (NCIEDI) openly challenged the City of Raleigh's recent decision to exclude American Indians from their minority program. Thanks to the efforts of NCIEDI and the American Indian businesses we serve, the Raleigh City Council approved a reversal of the changes which exclude American Indians from the program. Based on a unanimous vote by the Council at the Council Meeting today, September 6, 2011, American Indians and Asian Americans have been reinstated into the program as eligible minority groups.

The program promotes the use of minority-owned businesses in city contracting, so this amendment is significant for Indian businesses interested in working with the city and other cities across the state.

This victory for Indian country would not have been possible without the support and participation of the American Indian business community. By sending emails or letters, making phone calls, and attending meetings, business owners amplified the political voice of NCIEDI. The chorus of disapproval from American Indians state-wide showed the city council that their decision affected real people with real businesses.

The possibilities for American Indians in North Carolina are limitless if we continue to work together as a strong cooperative voice. American Indians are not vast in numbers, so our voice must remain loud and unbroken. Please continue to support NCIEDI in all our efforts to develop business opportunities and enhance the American Indian business community here in North Carolina.

*Individual glory is insignificant when compared to achieving victory as a team.*

–Dot Richardson, M.D.

Thank you for your support,

Tony Hayes  
CEO, NCIEDI