

From: [Chairman Jim Greer](#)
To: [Bender, Michael \(CNI-Palm Beach\)](#);
CC:
Subject: AARLC Black Media Roundtable
Date: Wednesday, July 01, 2009 12:46:04 PM
Attachments:

From the Desk of
Chairman Jim Greer

Friends,

Last Friday, I was proud to join Representative Jennifer Carroll and the Republican Party of Florida's African American Republican Leadership Council (AARLC) for a roundtable discussion with members of the Black media. The event was an important opportunity to listen to leaders of the Africa American community to learn their suggestions for how the Republican Party can maintain a working relationship with Black media outlets.

On Saturday, an article was published that discussed some of the positive outcomes of the meeting. While I do feel that the article in question did address some positive aspects of the meeting, I have received numerous calls and e-mails questioning the content of the article, and the RPOF's relationship with the Black media. Therefore, I would like to take a few minutes to address the content and provide the proper context for the topics outlined in the article. The RPOF has not and will not engage in any type of "quid pro quo," or "pay to play" relationship with any media organization.

The dialogue between the members of the AARLC, representatives of the Black media, and myself, lasted for more than three hours. Portions of the article discussing a "quid pro quo" relationship were taken out of context from a ten minute portion of the meeting, during which I discussed my business background. The meeting mainly focused on a detailed discussion of the history of the relationship between the Republican Party, Republican candidates, and Black media outlets. This relationship has included numerous attempts by the Black media to reach out to the Party and Republican candidates for advertising revenue as well as editorial content. These attempts to create a relationship often resulted in the Party and many Republican candidates turning a blind eye and a deaf ear to members of the Black media, completely ignoring and discrediting these ! egitimate members of the media. If my attempt to correct this previous overlooking of the Black media, on the part of the Republican Party and some Republican candidates, was perceived as committing to a "pay to play" relationship, that assumption is incorrect.

I understand the challenges of the past, and am looking forward to working with the major players this cycle to ensure that our candidates take full advantage of all the Black media has to offer, maximizing the exposure of our Republican ideas and values in this important media market. As we have said from day one, we are not looking for overnight results, we're looking for the opportunity to share our ideas and values, many of which we believe resonate with the African American community, and asking for African American voters to consider voting Republican.

Thank you for your time and understanding of this matter.

Warmest Regards,



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