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Brooklyn Park Business owners and local non-profit, ACER inc., hold rally to counter displacement of local businesses

Brooklyn Park, MN. May 2nd, 2022—

On Tuesday, April 26th, small business owners and local immigrant-focused nonprofit, African Career, Education and Resource Inc. (ACER inc.) held a rally at the 7710 Brooklyn Blvd building in Brooklyn Park to voice their concern over the displacement of 12 businesses that have been given short notice to vacate the building.

The property owner of the Brooklyn Park Executive Center has given businesses a deadline of May 31, 2022, to vacate the building. Business owners who currently lease at the property feel that, due to no fault of their own, they have been given too short of a notice to leave.

At the event, business owners voiced their concerns about the impact of this displacement on their businesses and their community. The predominantly black-owned businesses have occupied this space for well over 17 years and have provided a variety of products and services for Brooklyn Park's growing immigrant community. The loss of such diverse businesses would be a disservice to the majority BIPOC (61%) residents of Brooklyn Park. Additionally, owners say the move would undercut the mutual support system that they have built; owners rely on the same client base, so they believe that if they are forced to relocate to separate spaces their businesses will fail.

ACER inc. Associate Director, Denise Butler, stated that, ultimately, the situation is due to BIPOC business owners lacking the necessary capital and resources to own property. According to Butler, this is why ACER inc. is calling on State, County, and City officials to assist the business owners in relocating. Butler is also calling on officials to support local businesses in accessing capital to own and co-own commercial real-estate property.

Business owners and advocates hope this rally will bring attention to the changes required to make Brooklyn Park a prosperous environment for BIPOC-owned small businesses.



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