

National Black Church Initiative

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For Immediate Release

34,000 Black Churches of the National Black Church Initiative Have Asked The Federal Trade Commission and The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau To Investigate The Airlines, Hotels and Car Rental Point System

Our Members Think It Is Rigged

Washington DC – The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) a faith-based coalition of 34,000 churches comprised of 15 denominations and 15.7 million African Americans, has asked both the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) and the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to investigate the airlines, hotels and car rental companies' point systems. Our members complain that the airlines, hotels and car rental companies do not count all of the points that they earn. They only give you twenty percent of your points so that you will continue to spend more money trying to reach the upper tiers level.

The Rev. Anthony Evans, President of the National Black Church Initiative says, "NBCI is concerned about the ethical nature of these programs, their great harm to families and the money they are costing all consumers. This is the first action by NBCI Consumer Advocacy Division."

We assert that the system and the administration of the point programs are rigged in favor of the airlines, hotels and car rental companies. Over the years, these programs have represented billions of dollars in consumers' spending and have the financial weight to determine the profit margin of an industry or individual companies. This is the most compelling reason why the FTC should launch a broad-based investigation into the unethical and possible illegal practices of some of these companies' point programs.

The consumer is at a huge disadvantage and is placed in a position to encourage the overspending of their own personal and company travel budgets, in order to obtain what amounts to peanuts in program benefits. These travel programs could serve also as an inducement into fraudulent practices on behalf of the consumers and companies.

About NBCI

The National Black Church Initiative (NBCI) is a coalition of 34,000 African American and Latino Churches working to eradicate racial disparities in healthcare, technology, education, housing, and the environment. NBCI's mission is to provide critical wellness information to all of its members, congregants, Churches and the public. Our methodology is utilizing faith and sound health science.

NBCI's purpose is to partner with major organizations and officials whose main mission is to reduce racial disparities in the variety of areas cited above. NBCI offers faith-based, out-of-the-box and cutting edge solutions to stubborn economic and social issues. NBCI's programs are governed by credible statistical analysis, science based strategies and techniques, and methods that work. Visit our website at www.naltBlackChurch.com.