



# National Association of Minority Contractors

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*NAMC Espy Awards A call to Action to Rebuild Our Communities*

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National Association of Minority Contractors  
Espy Awards: A Call to Action to Rebuild Our Communities

Los Angeles, CA — In an interview on Speak For Yourself with Jason Whitlock, NFL Hall of Fame legend Jim Brown praised NBA superstars LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, Carmelo Anthony, and Chris Paul for speaking out at the 2016 ESPY Awards on the current gun violence plaguing many American communities. LeBron James initiated a call to action for all professional athletes to “go back to our communities. Invest our time, our resources, help rebuild them, help strengthen them, help change them. We all have to do better.”

Jim Brown talked about the need for creating jobs, helping people to develop life-management skills, and cutting down on violence. In the context of creating jobs to lift up the poor and rebuild our communities, he specifically spoke about the importance of construction companies willing to hire trained individuals. Jason Whitlock commended the work that Jim Brown has done with Wendell Stemley and the National Association of Minority Contractors (NAMC).

“There is a very real need for sports franchises to partner with organizations like the National Association of Minority Contractors,” Wendell Stemley, NAMC National President points out, speaking of the need for living wage jobs and the role that sports franchises play not only in the sports industry but in the construction industry.

“Billions of dollars generated annually allows sports franchises to invest in what we now know as the sports and entertainment complex.” These complexes, made up of stadiums, hotels, mixed-use housing, and restaurants, has allowed the association to look at this phenomenon from not only a fan's perspective but from a business perspective. Stemley went on to state, “We need only look at the number of new sporting complexes across the nation to understand the economic impact in our local cities. To uplift the inner city in America, it is vitally important that we train local residents to be able to participate in the types of living wage jobs created by these construction projects.”

Watch the Videos

Espy Awards 2016, opening statement with LeBron James, Dwyane Wade, Carmelo Anthony, and Chris Paul:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KCjMvEdPi30>

Jim Brown interview with Jason Whitlock, Speak For Yourself:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOzs\\_Pi8QI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NOzs_Pi8QI)

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Founded in Oakland, California in 1969 by Raymond Dones and Joseph Debro, NAMC is the oldest minority business trade organization in the United States with over 50 Hall of Fame members and Legacy Builders and an annual project capacity of over one billion dollars nationally. Through a network of local chapters, and in collaboration with strategic and corporate partnerships, NAMC assists women- and minority-owned member businesses with building capacity by providing access to opportunity, advocacy, and contractor development training.

For more information, visit: [www.namcnational.org](http://www.namcnational.org)

NAMC Thanks Our Corporate Supporters

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