

# BKA drafts code of ethics

## Blacks, Koreans step up support programs for neighborhoods

By **Richard Reyes Fruto**  
Korea Times

The Black-Korean Alliance unveiled three community improvement proposals on May 14 designed to bring the two ethnic

communities closer together in the wake of the Latasha Harlins killing.

The coalition of community leaders is drafting a code of ethics, jobs program for black youths and merchant-supported community

youth, sports and scholarship programs.

"There has to be a relationship that goes beyond merchant-customer," said BKA co-chairman Leo Terrell.

The BKA announced its proposals at a sparsely attended forum at a church in South Central Los Angeles. The proposals were based on recommendations received at

another forum in a packed church in Watts last month.

About 35 people attended the forum at True Way Baptist Church on 92nd and San Pedro streets.

Rev. Frank Higgins, pastor of True Way Baptist Church, warned that Korean merchants must make a commitment to improve rela-

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tions with the black community.

"Right now, we're on the verge of a riot in South Central Los Angeles," Higgins said. "The tension is here."

All three proposals address oft-repeated complaints about Korean merchants—that they don't treat their customers with common courtesy, hire local youth and get involved in the community.

The consumer code of ethics will require merchants and customers to exchange simple greetings, merchants to thank customers for their patronage and stores to have at least one English-speaking employee.

The BKA will require merchants to post the code of ethics inside their stores. The ethics code also will list a hotline that customers can call if they have complaints of code violations.

The Korean Youth Center and

Mayor Tom Bradley's office are joining forces to create a job program that will help black teenagers and young adults find employment at Korean and other businesses.

Olivia Mitchell, an aide to Mayor Bradley, said the city will commit funds to pay the salaries of employees working at businesses that cannot otherwise afford to pay them.

The BKA is developing a list of merchant-sponsored youth pro-

grams that will be coordinated in association with community churches and organizations.

Merchants will post signs in their stores informing the public about their participation in community programs.

The BKA will develop its proposals with the input from merchants and customers alike. The organization has set no timetable for implementing its proposals, but Terrell said he hopes they will be in place before the summer.