



**For Immediate Release**

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**HAITIAN NEIGHBORHOOD CENTER CONVENES IMMIGRATION FORUM  
TO COMBAT MISINFORMATION IN HAITIAN COMMUNITY**

Miami, FL (**June 20, 2007**) – Miami-Dade County’s Haitian Neighborhood Center, Sant La, Inc. is sponsoring a community forum and dialogue “Comprehensive Immigration Reform: What We Win and What We Lose” at 7 PM on Monday evening, June 25<sup>th</sup>, at North Miami Senior High School, 800 NE 137<sup>th</sup> Street, North Miami.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will feature a panel of local immigration attorneys who will be speaking to dispel the alarming number of rumors, misunderstandings, misinformation and mistranslations that are rampant in the Haitian community about the bills under consideration in Washington. Topics discussed will include an overview of the various legislative reform elements being discussed and an analysis of what the Haitian community will benefit or lose by these proposed changes. Questions from the audience will be accepted, and the attendees will be encouraged, as committed stakeholders, to become more engaged in the conversations taking place at the national level on this important issue.

Gepsie Metellus, Sant La Executive Director, states “This forum will serve to engage and inform the Haitian community of the status and facts of the current legislative initiatives, in order to increase understanding of the issues, to elevate its voice in the national debate and to prevent unnecessary victimization of Haitian immigrants.”

The Haitian Neighborhood Center, Sant La, is a not-for-profit One Stop Neighborhood Center whose purpose is to empower, strengthen and stabilize the Haitian-American community of South Florida through the coordination of service delivery in the areas of social services, education, economic self-sufficiency and access to health care.

Sponsorship for this civic forum and dialogue was received from The Children’s Trust, the American Dream Fund, and the Miami-Dade County Public Schools.

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