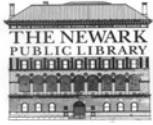


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P R E S S R E L E A S E

Tuesday, September 8, 2009

For Immediate Release

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**The Legacy of Ken Gibson Is Subject of Newark History Society and Newark Public Library Panel**

The first African American mayor of a major Northeastern city, he was elected in the wake of civic turmoil that rocked the nation's urban centers. He took the helm of New Jersey's largest city as the Great Society was fighting the War on Poverty and sending federal dollars to help stabilize and rebuild urban America. And he predicted, "Wherever America's cities are going, Newark will get there first."

The legacy of Kenneth A. Gibson, who served four terms as Newark's chief executive from 1970 until 1986, will be examined during a panel discussion co-hosted by the Newark Public Library and the Newark History Society, Tuesday, October 6 at 6 p.m. in the Main Library's Centennial Hall, 5 Washington Street.

Moderated by long-time Newark resident and retired *Star Ledger* reporter, Guy Sterling, the panelists include: Thomas Banker, a management, finance, systems and development consultant, formerly Newark's budget director and assistant business administrator; Dr. Robert Curvin, renowned expert on urban politics, economic development and social policy and former head of the Newark Chapter of Congress on Racial Equality; Carol Graves, Essex County Register and former president of the Newark Teachers Union (NTU) and Gustav Heningburg, management consultant, civic leader, former host of WNBC-TV's *Positively Black*, and the first president of the Greater Newark Urban Coalition, which helped move Newark forward after the 1967 riots.

"Ken Gibson's mark on the City of Newark is indelible," said Timothy Crist, co-founder of the Newark History Society and a member of the Newark Library's Board of Trustees, "We cannot talk about the history of Newark without examining the role that Mayor Gibson played in helping to shape it."

Praising the evening's speakers, Library director Wilma Grey noted, "The members of this esteemed panel were there in the early days of the Gibson administration and will have some very interesting insights and compelling commentary to share with the audience. I'm pleased that the Library is joining with the Newark History Society in reflecting on this ground breaking chapter in our City's history."

Entitled, *Newark Will Get There First: The Legacy of Mayor Ken Gibson*, the panel discussion is open to the public at no charge. Please respond by October 1 to [rsvp@npl.org](mailto:rsvp@npl.org) or call 973-733-7793. For more information log on to the Library's website [www.npl.org](http://www.npl.org)