



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release:
Contact:

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AFRICAN AMERICAN CHAMBER AND THE MTA HOLD WORKSHOPS FOR DISADVANTAGED/MINORITY & WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESSES

The African American Chamber of Commerce of Westchester and Rockland Counties and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) are working together to present workshops for disadvantaged, minority, or women-owned businesses each Saturday beginning September 6, 2008 thru September 27, 2008 from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. The free program includes continental breakfast and lunch. The four-day, 32-hour program has been successfully launched in other areas of the state to help business owners compete successfully for contracts with the MTA and other government agencies. Historically, 76% of participants are awarded contracts.

Among the subjects covered in the "Hudson Valley PREP (Preparing for Profit)" Program, funded by the MTA and the African American Chamber of Commerce, are marketing, cost estimating, accounting and navigating through a bureaucracy. The PREP course will be held at the Chamber office, 106 Stevens St., Suite 202, Mount Vernon, NY.

"The MTA is pleased to join efforts with the African American Chamber of Commerce to assist the Hudson Valley minority and small business community to effectively compete for MTA and other government agency contracts. We believe the PREP Program is an effective mechanism to facilitate this objective," says Kenneth A. Neal, director of the MTA's Civil Rights office.

"We are excited about bringing this opportunity to local businesses," says Robin Douglas, Founder and Executive Director of the African American Chamber of Commerce. "There are millions of dollars worth of contracts out there subject to competitive bidding, and the workshops help individuals identify the keys to success in winning contracts," she says. The MTA and other government agencies purchase a variety of services ranging from computers to landscaping, and printing to uniforms.

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