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Press Release

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[MTA Headquarters](#)

IMMEDIATE

### MTA Recognized for Innovative Programs to Assist Small Businesses

#### *Programs Assist Minority-Owned, Women-Owned and Disadvantaged Firms*

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) was recognized last night by the New York & New Jersey Minority Supplier Development Council for creating and implementing innovative small business development programs. In an effort to broaden its base of contractors, the MTA has created an expansive series of programs to help minority-owned, women-owned, and disadvantaged business enterprises participate in MTA construction, construction-related and personal services projects. They include small business mentoring, small business loans, surety bonding assistance, and construction and information technology training programs.

"This is a major accomplishment for the MTA," said Michael Garner, MTA Chief Diversity Officer. "In a very short period of time, we have transitioned the MTA into a leading driver of innovative and effective change that is expanding our pool of contractors and providing new opportunities to minority-owned, women-owned and disadvantaged small business enterprises. Our efforts are aligned with Governor Cuomo's directive to increase contract awards to New York State certified Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises, from 10% to 20%. These efforts are also supported by the MTA's Board and executive management with a focus on competitive pricing, job creation and economic development within our 14 county region."

The MTA has worked closely with New York State Assemblyman Keith L.T. Wright and New York State Senator John L. Sampson, who co-sponsored the MTA's Small Business Mentor Program Bill to create these innovative and unique small business development programs. These programs have led to a record number of prime contracts being awarded to New York State certified Minority, Women-Owned Business and MTA certified Disadvantage Business Enterprises. The programs are viewed as a national model and have been embraced by both the U.S. General Services Administration and the U.S. Commerce Department.

The New York New Jersey Minority Supplier Development Council, Inc., established in 1973, is a vital link between major corporations and minority business enterprises. The Council presented its award, Regional Corporation of the Year, to the MTA last night at its annual Partnership Awards Gala at the Marriott Marquis Hotel in Times Square.