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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

MTA Receives Award For Its Work Increasing Opportunities For MWBEs

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) was recently recognized for its efforts to provide new opportunities to minority, women-owned and disadvantaged business enterprises. Anchin's second Corporate Advocacy Award recognized the MTA's new Small Business Development Program (SBDP) and the new MTA Small Business Mentoring Program (SBMP). The programs offer construction training, access to capital, access to surety bonding and specific prime contracting opportunities to MWBEs.

The MTA's Department of Diversity and Civil Rights and Office of Construction Oversight established the Small Business Mentoring Program to provide a supportive framework for eligible firms to develop and grow within the construction industry and to establish stable, long-term business relationships with the MTA.

"We are seeing the fruits of our labor to increase contract awards to minority-owned, women-owned and disadvantaged business enterprises," said MTA Chairman and CEO Jay H. Walder. "However, more needs to be done, and I look forward to expanding this program to open up more doors for a vast array of small businesses in New York State."

"In such a short period of time, under the direction of MTA Chairman Jay Walder, and Chief Diversity Officer, Michael Garner, the MTA has managed to improve procurement opportunities for New York State-certified Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises," said William Thompson, Chairman of Governor Andrew Cuomo's MWBE Task Force. "We are looking to replicate a number of the innovative programs that the MTA has created and implemented. As a result of these initiatives, the MTA has changed the way that it does business and MWBEs are receiving a record number of contract awards."

The award was presented to the MTA's Chief Diversity Officer, Michael Garner, at Anchin's "Building the Future: Celebrating MWBEs and Their Advocates." The annual event was launched by Anchin, one of New York's preeminent accounting firms, in 2010 to recognize the contributions of outstanding MWBEs to the construction industry.

The MTA's new Small Business Mentoring Program is set to exceed first-year targets by awarding \$14 million in contracts to small businesses, with ten of the first fourteen contracts awarded to New York State-certified Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises. Legislation passed in Albany last year required at least \$10 million in contracts be awarded in the first year.

The contract awards are a result of targeted, proactive outreach to small businesses that had not previously done business with the MTA. The program includes the implementation of a successful construction training program for participating firms. As a result, the MTA was able to increase the number of MWBE participants within the New York 12-county region. One hundred and four firms have been prequalified for the program since September 2010.

The Small Business Mentoring Program will expand 50 percent in the next year, with a long-term goal of awarding \$100 million in contracts annually. The SBMP also includes a small business loan program that will enable smaller contractors, specifically, minority, women-owned and disadvantaged business enterprises, to apply for a small business loan up to \$150,000, once a firm wins a contract to be used for working capital. The MTA's Small Business Development efforts are aligned with Governor Cuomo's mandate to increase contract awards to NYS-certified MWBEs from ten to twenty percent.