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Press Release

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IMMEDIATE

MTA to Host Outreach Event for Hudson Valley Small Businesses, Especially Those Owned by Minorities, Women or Service-Disabled Veterans

Event Will Also Feature Information About Metro-North Procurement Opportunities and How to Apply for Jobs Online

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) today announced that it will host a special event to educate Hudson Valley businesses about MTA contracting and procurement opportunities. The event is for anyone who owns a small business, especially one that's certified through Federal or State programs as disadvantaged or owned by members of minorities, women or veterans who have been disabled in the line of duty.

The effort is part of the MTA's Small Business Development Program, a set of initiatives designed to help small and disadvantaged firms grow and succeed as MTA contractors. MTA representatives will share information about the program as well procurement opportunities within North America's largest and busiest public transportation network.

This networking event will take place on March 31 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Orange County Chamber of Commerce at the Crossroads Corporate Park, 30 Scotts Corners Drive, Montgomery, N.Y. 12549.

Businesses active in a variety of industries are welcome. Also welcome are those individuals who are interested in learning about the types of jobs available at the MTA, how to apply for jobs on-line and the application process. Information about the upcoming MTA Police Department test as well as civilian positions with the Department will also be available.

The MTA's Small Business Development Program is an innovative program that offers small and emerging firms the unique opportunity to get access to capital, bonding, technical assistance, mentoring and the in-the-field training necessary to help their businesses learn, earn and grow. Procurement and contracting opportunities exist for a broad range of goods and services, including construction and related services, legal services, specialized janitorial cleaning services, signage and track material.

"Our Small Business Development plan is mutually beneficial and rewarding for the MTA and participating firms," said Michael J. Garner, MTA Chief Diversity Officer. "The MTA will grow its pool of qualified, successful construction contractors, and small businesses will grow their portfolio of successful projects."

"In the six years since its inception, the program has awarded 219 contracts, totaling more than \$197.3 million, to participating minority-owned, women-owned and disadvantaged businesses," said Garner. "We're proud that firms historically disenfranchised from the construction industry are doing business with the MTA."

For more information about the Small Business Development Program and procurement and employment opportunities, please visit our website at: <http://www.mta.info/>