

SMALL BUSINESS FORUM

REPORT PREPARED FOR THE MARCH 19, 2009 COUNCIL MEETING

1. Next Scheduled Meeting of the Committee

Next scheduled meeting of the Committee: TBD

2. Council Approval

None

3. Membership

Since our last report, about 16 attendees at the February 26th event had never before been to an SBF event. Further, we have contacted the Asian Pacific Chamber to see about engaging them in an SBF event to increase our diversity. We have had a positive response, but no actual action from the group.

4. Accomplishments toward Committee Objectives

Our first event on strategies for succeeding in a down economy was attended by about 22 people, mostly, but not all attorneys. It was a more diverse group in many other ways than some of those we have seen in the past, however. Our leaders will be putting together events this year in furtherance of our goal to transition Cynthia Umphrey out as the primary event organizer. We also plan to increase efforts in Macomb County and, budget permitting, in Lansing to broaden our geographical reach.

5. Meetings and Programs

We are most likely not having another event until September, but may have one in May. That event will be coordinated by Doug Toering and he will decide when it is best timing-wise. His event will be focused around minority business issues and where the money is now, including veterans' businesses, women-owned businesses, and maybe alternatives like adoption of minority hiring practices

In Oct-Nov., David Eberhard will be coordinating a free mixer kick-off party to try to get some momentum going in Macomb County. No speaker and no charge to attend.

In Oct-Nov., Nick Reister and Mark Kellogg will be coordinating a free mixer kick-off party to try to get some momentum going on the west side. No speaker and no charge to attend Oct/Nov.

6. Publications

We do not plan to publish.

7. Legislative/Judicial/Administrative Developments

N/A

8. Miscellaneous