

**SMALL BUSINESS FORUM
REPORT PREPARED FOR THE MAY 21, 2010 COUNCIL MEETING**

1. **Next meeting:** The next of the Small Business Forum will probably occur in the fall, at a date and location to be determined.
2. **Council approval:** No matters require Council approval.
3. **Membership:** We communicate with the planning committee by e-mail and teleconference. We publicize the Small Business Forum events through e-mails to BLS members, e-mails to previous attendees, and press releases.
4. **Accomplishments Toward Committee Objectives:** We are achieving our goal of hosting 3-4 Forum events throughout the year. We still desire to increase diversity of those who attend the Forum events. We welcome anyone's suggestions.
5. **Meetings and Programs:** On Tuesday, May 11, 2010, the Small Business Forum sponsored its second event for 2010 at the Columbia Center in Troy. The topic was "Developing Foreign Markets: New Opportunities for Small Businesses in Exporting." The speakers were: Richard Corson, Director, U.S. Commercial Service; John R. O'Gara, Regional Manager, Export Solutions Group, Office of International Trade, U.S. Export Assistance Center, U.S. Small Business Administration; and Maurice F. Snyder, Ph.D., Spes Development Co. Their presentations were quite helpful. Mr. O'Gara's handouts are a good introduction to the financial issues involved in exporting and the various kinds of financial assistance available through the Export-Import Bank and the SBA. The event was made again possible through the excellent work of Terri Shoop. About 15 people attended.
6. **Publications:** We have published no articles.
7. **Methods of Monitoring Legislative/Judicial/Administrative Developments and Recommended Action:** We do not make regular efforts to monitor court decisions or activities in the Michigan legislature or the U.S. Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

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