

SMALL BUSINESS FORUM
REPORT PREPARED FOR THE DECEMBER 4, 2010 COUNCIL MEETING

1. **2010-2011 Budget Request and Anticipated Use of Funds:** We request \$3,000 (net of revenue) to assist in sponsoring three Small Business Forum seminars. A modest amount may be used for publicity. We project expenses of \$4,000 and revenue of \$1,000.
2. **Use of Budgeted Funds During 2009-2010.** The budgeted funds for 2009-2010 were used to assist in sponsoring and publicizing three SBF events.
3. **Next Scheduled Meeting of the Committee:** The next Small Business Forum will probably occur during the first quarter of 2011.
4. **Council Approval:** No matters require Council approval.
5. **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.
6. **Accomplishments Toward Committee Objectives:** We are achieving our goal of hosting three Forum events throughout the year. We still desire to increase participation of women and ethnic minorities in the Forum events. We welcome anyone's suggestions.
7. **Meetings and Programs:** On Tuesday, October 5, 2010 at 5:30 PM, the Small Business Forum sponsored its third event for 2010. Held at the Columbia Center in Troy, the topic was "Leadership in Business during Uncertain and Challenging Times." Our moderator was Larry Fobes, the Director of the Institute for Organizational and Industrial Competitiveness at Wayne State University's School of Business Administration. The host of the Michigan Emmy award winning "Leaders on Leadership" television series on PBS, Larry presented video vignettes of his interviews with business CEOs and presidents (and with a few government or non-profit leaders, as well) who have faced some of the same challenges that confront us now. He then led a group discussion on how what we learned applies to business today. The seminar was well received and may be offered in western Michigan.
8. **Publications:** We have published no articles.
9. **Methods of Monitoring Legislative/Judicial/Administrative Developments and Recommended Action:** We do not regularly monitor court decisions or activities in the Michigan legislature or the U.S. Congress.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas L. Toering, Committee Chair
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