



## **Caribbean American Chamber Of Commerce and Industry, Inc. (CACCI)**

### **Public and Private Sector Agencies and Financial Institutions Addressed CACCI's Power-Packed Power Breakfast Meeting**

Brooklyn, NY. The Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Inc.(CACCI) sponsored its Special Small Business Power Breakfast Meeting on Wednesday November 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at the Historic Brooklyn Borough Hall, downtown Brooklyn.

**Dr. Roy A. Hastick, Sr.**, President/CEO, CACCI served as convener. He expressed his appreciation and thanked the participation of an array of speakers, presenters and resource persons who participated in this annual procurement and market place event. "The overwhelming turnout by special guest speakers, members and guests was a clear indication of the continued commitment to CACCI to provide information for our members who are in need of business resources and assistance in order to access procurement opportunities and financing to advance their business growth."

Among the special guest speakers were: Deputy Brooklyn Borough President **Ms. Yvonne Graham**, and elected officials NYS **Senator Kevin Parker** and NYC **Councilmember Darlene Mealy**. Former NYC Council member **Dr. Una Clarke** and 1199 SIEU Representative **Vicki Sylvain** spoke about the devastation in the Caribbean caused by the recent Hurricane Tomas on the respective islands of Jamaica and Haiti.

**Mr. Paul Williams Jr., Esq.**, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Dormitory Authority State of New York (DASNY) served as Keynote Speaker. He provided an overview of DASNY which includes financing and construction services to public and private universities, not-for-profit healthcare facilities and other institutions which serve the public good. Mr. Williams encouraged participants to take advantage of the opportunities and resources that are available through DASNY.

**George Hulse**, CACCI Vice Chairman and Vice President of Health First served as Moderator. Health first provides affordable, quality care health plans for underserved communities and helps to improve the effectiveness of healthcare delivery by partnering with providers and reinvesting in member hospitals.

The remainder of the program dealt with specific resources that are available through agencies, corporations and financial institutions that are necessary for business development. Presentations were made by Resource Executives including:

**Heyward Davenport, Regional Director**, United States Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency ((MBDA). **This agency provides information on access to capital and finance management, commercial lending and banking, financial, credit and risk analysis, SBA and conventional loans qualification and evaluation; loan and grant**

**identification and packaging; general finance counseling and access to contracts by MBDA business development specialists who provide procurement assistance to help minority-owned firms do business with the federal, state, and local governments as well as private corporations.**

**Suzanne Veira**, Executive Director, Business Development Division (BDD) of the School Construction Authority (SCA). This agency helps qualified emerging construction and construction-related firms do business with the SCA. The Business Development Division recruits minority, women-owned and locally-based enterprises for certification through participation in various minority trade shows, conferences and forums. To be eligible for services, a business must become M/W/LBE-certified in addition to being prequalified.

**Elizabeth Abreu**, Brooklyn Representative, Small Business Administration (SBA) which is a US government agency that serves as a resource and provides invaluable services such as business counseling, training and financial assistance and small business loans.

**Michael Jones-Bey**, Executive Director, NYS/MWBE Program, an agency that is responsible for eliminating barriers to women and minority participation in state contracts. The agency reviews applications by businesses seeking certification as an MWBE, maintains a directory of certified MWBE's and promotes business development of MWBE's through education and outreach.

**Francisco Castillo**, Branch Manager, City National Bank (CNB) which offers an array of financial services including how to access to business financing, credit cards, banking, investments and trust programs. They are experienced international trade professionals,

**Charles Lockley**, VP/Relationship Manager Commercial Banking, Citibank which is one of the largest full service banks in the United States and provides financial lending and business services.

**Debra Dilan**, Intergovernmental/Community Affairs, Office of the New York State Comptroller. The Comptroller's Office audits state agencies, public authorities, local governments in New York State and helps to ensure transparency and accountability, protects against fraud, waste and abuse. The office also manages unclaimed funds.

**Jim Barber**, New York State Executive Director, Farm Service Agency, USDA. The Farm Services Agency works to increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for rural Americans including direct operating loans for farm equipment, seed and fertilizer, as well as rural housing loans to help rural people buy, build or rent housing and creates jobs by funding the growth and creation of rural businesses and cooperatives.

Other business leaders included: **Richard Drucker**, Senior Vice President External Affairs, Brooklyn Navy Yard Development Corp; **Joy Crichlow**, Director, MWBE Program, Con Edison; **Alfred Placeres, Esq.**, President of the NYS Federation of Hispanic Chambers of Commerce; **Bruce and Ebony Kirkland**, Ebony Marketing; **Dr. Moses Newsome**, Sr. Vice President, External Relations, Medgar Evers College, CUNY; **Greg Glasgow**, NYC Schools Construction Authority and **Michael Clay**, DSNY. CACCI board members included **Chris Bridgewater, Esq.**; **Balfour Peart**,

International Business Consultant; **Edmund Sadio**, Century 21 Achievers, Bishop **Cecil Riley**, Caribbean Clergy Coalition and **Dr. Eda Harris-Hastick**, Medgar Evers College.

The Power Breakfast Meeting culminated in a presentation of plaques to most recent CACCI members and the launching of CACCI's small business program and services: **Financial Literacy Empowerment**, Job Development, **Small Business Services** and the **MWBE Certification Program**.

For information on CACCI's monthly networking meetings; other special projects and events including Annual Gift Giving, Women and Children Haiti Relief Project, Annual Christmas Salute (12/16) to Small Business Visionaries; membership; small business services and workshops on Financial Literacy Empowerment, Job Development, Small Business Service and MWBE Certification Program; vending at the Flatbush Caton Market, or to schedule an appointment for Free small business counseling, contact CACCI: (718) 834-4544. Email: [info@caccitradecenter.com](mailto:info@caccitradecenter.com). [www.caribbeantradecenter.com](http://www.caribbeantradecenter.com).