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## 'Meet the Primes' Mixer Draws Nearly 400 Small Business Firms



Chief Administrative Services Officer Lonnie Mitchell, and Deputy Executive Officer Linda B. Wright welcome more than 400 small business owners and officials to the first-ever "Meet the Primes" mixer. *(Photo by Sherman Gay)* Below, business owners meet with primes contractors in an exchange of resources.



- **Event is hailed as an economic boom town for contractors — big and small — seeking to do business with Metro**

By GAYLE ANDERSON

(Feb. 24, 2009) Fifteen top prime contractors and over 400 small business owners and officials filled the Metro Board Room for the first-ever "Meet the Primes" event, held in January.

Sponsored by the Transportation Business Advisory Council and the Diversity & Economic Opportunity Department, "Meet



Chief Administrative Services Officer Lonnie Mitchell, Rod Garcia of Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers, and Director Richard Katz discuss opportunities for contracting services. Below, small business owners visit information tables provided by 15 prime contractors.



Below, from left, Johnathan Hou of Axion, Rod Garcia, Deputy Executive Officer Linda B. Wright, Director Richard Katz and Bill Yang of Asian American Architects and Engineers Association.



The range of firms included construction firms, electricians, engineers, management consultants, communications, professional services, and accounting groups.

"These are services and products that prime contractors may need to fulfill

the Primes" is a unique opportunity for small businesses to build relationships with prime contractors and stay connected when sub-contracting opportunities arise.

Director Richard Katz, Chief Administrative Services Officer Lonnie Mitchell, and Deputy Executive Officer Linda B. Wright welcomed the group.

At the meeting, small business owners had the opportunity to introduce themselves and meet with a number of prime contractors. The small business owners shared their products or services, and professional experience, including a list of past and current projects and clients.

Small businesses brought a range of specialized resources to the tables staffed by prime contractors.

the obligations of a major contract," said Keith Compton, DEOD Outreach Manager.

"This is the first time we've brought small firms together with major firms for the purpose of partnering to bid on a Metro contract," said Sherman Gay, Sr. Diversity & Economic Representative who conducts monthly workshops to advise firms on how to do business with Metro and the certification programs.

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