

CLEVELAND SYNERGY OUTREACH EVENT

CMHA and other panelists discuss stimulus-funded projects

On Thursday, April 2, 2009 more than 1,000 people packed into the Cleveland Convention Center downtown for the City's Synergy Outreach Event.

Local businesses came out for the day to network and listen to Mayor Frank Jackson and panel discussions on upcoming community stimulus projects.

"Recently, I sent a letter to President Obama requesting that he enhance the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Program, via Executive Order or by implementing regulations that will ensure that this funding does what it is intended to do – help local businesses participate in the economic opportunity that the ARRA is creating, while providing jobs to our communities," said Mayor Frank Jackson.

Natoya Walker, Interim Director of the Mayor's Office of Equal Opportunity and CMHA Board member, spoke on how people can be a part of the rebuilding of the City of Cleveland to get the ball rolling and to begin preparing for the future.

The event was divided into two segments: forums that focused on proposed stimulus projects in the areas of economic development and public service as well as workshops to discuss how to do business with the City of Cleveland, including procurement and certification to help empower local, small businesses.

Networking booths were also set up at the event for attendees to mingle and learn about how they can bid on these contracts with federal stimulus dollars.

Jeffery K. Patterson, Chief of Staff and Operations for CMHA was a panelist along with representatives from the Regional Transit Authority, the Cleveland Metropolitan School District, the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District and city department officials in public service, community development, public utilities and airports and harbors.

"CMHA was happy to be involved in this event which provided valuable information to persons wishing to do business in our community. We will continue to share information on upcoming projects with these businesses for the purpose of affording them the opportunity to become more involved," said Patterson.