



PRESS RELEASE

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MEDIA CONTACT:

Margo Williams Handy, MWH Public Relations
281.213.9554, 832.492.2407 or margo@mwhpublicrelations.com

Houston Mayoral Candidates to Share Views on Houston Small Business Development During Mayoral Forum Hosted by Texas Business Alliance

HOUSTON (April 28, 2009) – Houston’s mayoral candidates will share their views regarding small business development during the Texas Business Alliance (TBA) Houston Mayoral Forum on Thursday, May 21, 2009, at the Barbara Jordan-Mickey Leland School of Public Affairs at Texas Southern University, 3100 Cleburne Street, Houston, TX 77004. The general and private receptions begin at 6 p.m., with the one-hour Mayoral Forum beginning at 7 p.m. Art Rascon, reporter/anchor, KTRK-TV 13 Eyewitness News will moderate. The public is invited to attend.

Participating in the Mayoral Forum are candidates Peter Brown, Houston city councilman; Gene Locke, partner, Andrews Kurth, LLP; Roy Morales, trustee, Harris County Department of Education; and Annise Parker, controller, city of Houston.

“Houston prospers only when small businesses prosper,” said Dr. John M. Rudley, president of Texas Southern University. “If Houston is to remain a place where jobs and opportunity are abundant and where the American dream is within reach for every family, then one of our greatest goals must be to help small businesses succeed. That’s why Texas Southern University is proud to host the Mayoral Forum focusing on small business matters.”

“Specifically, the Texas Business Alliance is interested in hearing the candidates’ viewpoints on the issues that matter to small businesses in Houston, such as how decisions to hire or not hire local firms will be made, the Affirmative Action and Contract Compliance area, their plans to ensure MWBEs are developed to do business with the city of Houston, and Small Business taxes,” said Jeffrey L. Boney, founder and CEO, TBA. “The success of small business in Houston and its future will be shaped by one of the candidates attending this forum.”

The public is invited and encouraged to attend and hear the issues firsthand. To reserve a seat, online registration is available at www.texasbusinessalliance.org. Registrants wishing to attend the private meet-and-greet reception with the mayoral candidates may register and pay on the TBA Web site. The cost of the private meet and greet is \$25 for non-members and \$20 for TBA members. There is no cost to attend the general reception or Mayoral Forum.

For more information, please contact 281.213.9554 or info@mwhpublicrelations.com.

About Texas Business Alliance

A member-driven, solutions oriented, 501(c)(6) nonprofit organization, with a mission to equip minority- and women-owned businesses to be qualified suppliers, ready to compete for public, private and international opportunities through progressive development and specialized training. Its vision is to strengthen the Texas economy and spur job creation by expanding minority- and women-owned businesses, and encouraging youth entrepreneurship. Chapter organizations are being pursued in Dallas/Ft. Worth, San Antonio, Austin and El Paso. Visit www.texasbusinessalliance.org for more details or call 281.213.9554.