

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**MAYOR GRAY LAUNCHES NEW SERVICE TO MAKE IT EASIER FOR SMALL  
BUSINESSES TO NAVIGATE THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA'S REGULATORY  
ENVIRONMENT**

*New Small Business Resource Center Provides Technical Assistance to Entrepreneurs  
Operating and Doing Business in the District of Columbia*

*Mayor Gray Committed to Launching Initiatives to Support his Vision of "One City" by  
Making the District of Columbia a Business-Friendly Environment*

Mayor Vincent C. Gray and Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (D.C.RA) Director Nicholas Majett today announced the launch of D.C.RA's new Small Business Resource Center (SBRC), a service center which will provide technical assistance to small business owners seeking to navigate the District of Columbia's regulatory environment.

The SBRC supports Mayor Gray's vision of making the District of Columbia's regulatory environment more streamlined and less burdensome to the business community. "The launch of the Small Business Resource Center brings us one step closer to achieving my vision, and reiterates the importance of D.C.RA to economic development in the District," said Mayor Gray.

The SBRC will provide one-on-one technical assistance, pro bono legal services, and workshops designed to assist small businesses with navigating regulatory issues such as corporate registrations, licensure, tax compliance, and other business compliance related topics. Small business owners will be able to come to D.C.RA and get the right guidance so that they can operate their business legally and in compliance with the laws and regulations set forth in the District.

"While D.C.RA has been making strides to modernize, update, and streamline processes so that businesses can operate in the District of Columbia with greater ease, we continue to find that the complexity of the District's regulatory environment creates challenges for our small businesses," said Director Majett. "We do not want to be an obstacle. Instead, we want to be facilitators of business activity within the District."

By partnering with non-profit, federal government and other District of Columbia agencies, D.C.RA will have an opportunity to cover a wide variety of topics with regulatory issues across the District of Columbia. SBRC partners include the D.C. Chamber of Commerce Foundation, D.C. Women's Business Center, D.C. Small Business Development Center Network, US Internal Revenue Service, Washington Area Community Investment Fund, D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program, Latino Economic Development Corporation, and the D.C. Department of Small and Local Business Development.

The SBRC is at the forefront of D.C.RA's effort to streamline business entry requirements for new small businesses cultivate a greater environment for support of small business development. To learn more about the SBRC, visit <http://D.C.ra.ecenterdirect.com> or follow on Twitter @D.C.smallbizctr.