



# ***BWIB Memberandum***

**Week of July 18, 2008**

- **Hilton Convention Center Hotel Hiring Process Well Under Way**

The countdown has begun for this summer's grand opening for the new Hilton Baltimore Convention Center Hotel. The Mayor's Office of Employment Development has been working with staff from the Hilton to fill the roughly 500 employment opportunities associated with this luxurious new hospitality and tourism venue. MOED began these activities in earnest during March of this year by inviting a host of local workforce development organizations to an event to formally launch the employee recruitment efforts for the hotel. Recruitment for front-line jobs has been under way since the beginning of the summer. These jobs will include positions as: room attendants, food/beverage service providers, front office agents/supervisors, housekeepers, and engineering/maintenance technicians. During this week, and continuing into next week, MOED staff members are assisting the Hilton Hotel at its "Interview Fair," in order to facilitate the hiring process for these positions.

- **2008 – 2009 Baltimore Regional Employer Awards Update**

Nominations are presently being solicited for the Second Annual Baltimore Regional Employer Awards. These awards will be presented to area businesses as a way to highlight their unique achievements in the field of workforce development. Businesses will be recognized in the following five categories: **Looking Beyond Barriers and Hiring Smart, Competitive Advantage, Employee Retention, Preparing Youth for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workplace, and Innovator**. Winners will be selected by a panel, made up of representatives from the BWIB and the Baltimore County Workforce Development Council.

Honorees will be formally recognized at the second annual Baltimore Regional Employer Breakfast, scheduled for September 17, 2008. Mayor Sheila Dixon and Baltimore County Executive Jim Smith will be on hand to acknowledge the winning companies. As a condition of accepting an award all winners will agree to participate in the Baltimore Regional Employer Institute where they will facilitate "peer to peer" sessions to promote and expand their promising workforce practices. These seminars will take place monthly, from January until May of 2009. The success of this valuable initiative depends in large part on our ability to identify businesses that are engaged in innovative practices that help put people to work. Please note that all nominations packets must be received by no later than July 30<sup>th</sup>.

- **Baltimore Represented in NGA Policy Academy**

The State of Maryland has been invited to participate in the National Governor's Association Policy Academy. This initiative is focused on supporting state efforts to design and implement targeted industry strategies for workforce development. Along with staff from the Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation, the local delivery system is represented through the participation of workforce professionals from Baltimore City and Baltimore County. Additionally, BWIB Board member Patrice Cromwell is involved with this program on behalf of the Annie Casey Foundation. Other states that will be involved in this effort include: Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina, Oklahoma, and Oregon. Teams from Maryland and these states will meet in Madison, Wisconsin so as to increase knowledge for participants of sector strategies and options for states through interaction with experts, learning network states, and business champions.

- **Baltimore Urges that Red Line Transit Project Be “Jobs Friendly”**

This week, representatives of the Baltimore City Red Line Task Force met with Paul Wiedefeld, Administrator of the Maryland Transit Administration, in order to present the city's draft “Red Line Community Compact.” This document, compiled by community members and staff from a cross-section of municipal agencies, represents the City's collective listing of policy recommendations to be considered as part of the development of this \$1.5 billion transportation project.

Positively, with regard to workforce development, the Compact includes a number of important suggestions. For instance, the Compact: 1) recommends that contract awards incorporate provisions similar to the Baltimore City Residents First Program, 2) encourages project contractors to participate in the City's YouthWorks summer jobs program, 3) urges the promotion of transportation and related professions and skills as a career opportunity for young people, and 4) suggests the creation of partnerships with schools in the Red Line corridor to develop career path programs. The draft Compact will now be presented to the public at-large for review and comment.

- **Dates of Interest**

Wednesday, Aug. 13<sup>th</sup> (8:30 am) – BWIB Workforce System Effectiveness Committee Meeting

Thursday, Aug. 14<sup>th</sup> (8:00 am) – BWIB Training & Postsecondary Education Committee Meeting

Tuesday, Sept. 9<sup>th</sup> (7:30 am) – BWIB Full Board Meeting

Thursday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> (7:45 am) – BWIB Youth Council Meeting

Monday, Sept. 15<sup>th</sup> (12:30 pm) – BWIB Public Policy Committee Meeting

Wednesday, Sept. 17<sup>th</sup> (8:00 am) – 2008 Baltimore Regional Employer Awards Breakfast

*\*\*\*If you would like additional information regarding any of the issues or events discussed throughout this publication, please feel free to contact Jeff Smith.\*\*\**