

District Launches "One City One Hire" Initiative

Written by WI Web Staff Report

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WASHINGTON



, D.C. -- *One City One Hire* is an innovative strategy that will encourage Washington metropolitan area employers to commit to hire at least one unemployed District resident. It is designed to serve as a catalyst to jump-start the Mayor's pledge to put unemployed District residents -- in every ward of the city -- back to work.

The initiative is being launched with support from the D.C. Chamber of Commerce, and is modeled after Atlanta's highly successful *Hire One Atlanta* jobs program which achieved nearly 13,000 new hires within six months of its launch.

One City One Hire

aims to get area employers to hire 10,000 unemployed District residents within the next year.

"This effort is the latest and most innovative part of our multi-pronged strategy to get District residents back to work," said Mayor Vincent Gray. *One City One Hire* will encourage public-private partnerships that benefit our entire city and our region.

To assist this effort, employers and job seekers will have access to the many value-added programs and services offered by the D.C. Department of Employment Services (DOES) -- including tax-based employer incentives, wage subsidies, pre-employment training in emerging/high-demand occupations and work-readiness preparation -- which will ensure those District residents who are hired will be trained and work-ready to meet the demands of their new jobs.

"I am very excited and encouraged by the support of the many private-sector employers who have committed to partner with us to find solutions to the pressing challenge of high unemployment that has overwhelmed our city," said DOES Director Lisa M. Mallory. "The *One City One Hire*

initiative is a means to address the urgent need to help District residents find meaningful,

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sustainable employment during these difficult economic times.□

In addition to the D.C. Chamber of Commerce, several local businesses, associations, and universities have committed to support the *One City One Hire* initiative through hiring employees or encouraging their member organizations to hire employees. Supporting businesses and organizations include CVS Pharmacy; the District of Columbia Building Industry Association (DCBIA); the Hotel Association of Washington, DC; the Courtyard by Marriott Convention Center; Hensel Phelps Construction Company; Clyde's Restaurants; and George Washington and Georgetown Universities.