



Baltimore
Metropolitan
Council

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MEET THE PRIMES NETWORKING EVENT TO CONNECT SMALL AND MINORITY BUSINESSES TO PRIME BIDDERS

BALTIMORE, MD (October 11, 2016) – The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) and Baltimore County will host the eighth annual Meet the Primes networking event, which connects small- and minority-owned businesses with prime contract bidders, on **Wednesday, October 19**. The event will take place from **8 a.m. until noon** at the Maryland State Fairgrounds, located at 2200 York Road in Timonium.

The event is free and open to those interested, though [registration](#) is encouraged and will be open through **Tuesday, October 13**. Those who wish to be listed in the event booklet should register before **Monday, October 17, at 5 p.m.**

“It’s a great event,” said Robert Ball, of Baltimore County Public Schools. “Small businesses and minority businesses can make personal contact with numerous companies who are looking for their skills, and who are there with the intention of meeting new business partners. It is a way to maximize their business prospecting efforts.”

Meet the Primes is a great stepping stone for small- and minority-owned businesses to make connections, find work and grow. The prime bidders who will attend the event represent millions of dollars in annual contracts for many industries in the Baltimore region.

More than 450 people from small- and minority-owned businesses are registered to attend the Meet the Primes event. Likewise, about 130 exhibitors from government, public education, private companies and other entities will be there to make connections.

“We expect a very personable, low-pressure networking event. It’s a chance to talk to people, learn what they are working on and present credentials, to see if there is a business fit,” Ball said.

“Small- and minority-businesses have the best chance of presenting their qualifications and being received, because prime bidders will be there with the attitude that they want to meet business owners and learn about their business,” Ball said.

Those who register for the event will be contacted beforehand to schedule one-on-one match-making sessions through the Maryland Washington Minority Companies Association. Those attending are encouraged to bring capability statements and references with them.

Meet the Primes is made possible through the partnership between BMC’s Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee (BRCPC), Baltimore County, Baltimore County Public Schools, Baltimore County Public Library, the Community College of Baltimore County, Baltimore City, the City of Annapolis, the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments, and Anne Arundel, Carroll, Harford, Howard, Montgomery, Prince George’s and Wicomico counties.

For more information about Meet the Primes, contact Robert Ball by email at rball@bcps.org or by phone at 410-887-4334; or contact Carla Tucker by email at ctucker@baltimorecountymd.gov or by phone at 410-887-3119.

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The Baltimore Metropolitan Council (BMC) works collaboratively with the chief elected officials in the region to create initiatives to improve the quality of life and economic vitality. BMC, as the Baltimore region’s council of governments (COG), hosts the Baltimore Regional Transportation Board (BRTB), the federal metropolitan planning organization (MPO), and supports local government by coordinating efforts in a range of policy areas including emergency preparedness, housing, cooperative purchasing, environmental planning and workforce development.

BMC’s Board of Directors includes the executives of Anne Arundel, Baltimore, Harford and Howard counties, the mayor of the City of Baltimore, a member of the Carroll County Board of Commissioners, a member of the Maryland State Senate, a member of the Maryland House of Delegates, and a gubernatorial appointee from the private sector.