

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs



PRESS RELEASE

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DCRA Small Business Resource Center to Host Second Annual Entrée DC Event

Event Will Feature New Business That Opened with Assistance from SBRC

(WASHINGTON, D.C.)—The Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs' (DCRA) Small Business Resource Center (SBRC) will host its second annual "Entrée Food & Drink Forum" on August 25, 2014 at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center. This year's event, which is free, includes breakout sessions designed to offer support to a broad array of stakeholders in the catering, vending, delicatessen, bakery, and restaurant industries. District government subject-matter experts will be on hand to provide overviews of the regulatory process and answer any question attendees may have regarding areas such as business licensure, zoning, sidewalk cafes, and alcohol and beverage permitting.

This year's event will also feature speakers with first-hand experience operating food-service businesses in the District— including Donnie Simpson, Jr., who was able to establish new businesses with the help of SBRC. In April, Simpson opened Uprising Muffin Company, a bakery café specializing in muffins, due in part to assistance from SBRC.

"SBRC staff went out of their way to make sure I understood the process and was taken care of," said Simpson. "For me, it was a really easy process."

SBRC offers assistance to businesses in the District through one-on-one counseling and informational events like Entrée DC.

"We've heard from many aspiring and current entrepreneurs about how helpful DCRA's Small Business Resource Center informational events are, and we are extremely excited about the Entrée DC event that SBRC and partner organizations have put together," said Interim DCRA Director Rabbiah Sabbakhan.

To host and organize the event, SBRC is collaborating with the Washington DC Economic Partnership, the D.C. Chamber of Commerce, non-profit organizations, private-sector companies, and District government agencies. The event will use the Money Smart Small Business Program, which the DCRA SBRC has worked with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to promote. The overall goal for the event is to provide business education services to current and prospective entrepreneurs in a food-related business.

To register for the event, go to www.entreedc.com.

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