

**PRESS RELEASE**

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**PHILADELPHIA DEVELOPMENT PARTNERSHIP HONORS COUNCILMAN W. WILSON GOODE, JR. FOR HIS COMMITMENT TO THE MICROENTERPRISE COMMUNITY  
Jeremiah J. White, Jr., former PDP director, is also honored**

PHILADELPHIA, PA (December 5) - Councilman W. Wilson Goode, Jr. was honored last evening at a holiday event sponsored by the Philadelphia Development Partnership (PDP). The event, marked by an annual cooking competition featuring diverse cultural cuisines prepared by microentrepreneurs from PDP's peer lending program, Community Capital Works (CCW), was held in the Mayor's Reception Room at City Hall from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Councilman Goode, an ardent advocate for microenterprise development, has pushed recent legislation through City Council, all of which directly or indirectly affect neighborhood microenterprises, resulting in three bills that were unanimously approved and signed by Mayor John F. Street.

Jeremiah J. White, Jr., former director of PDP and currently the chairman of Monarch Consulting Group, was also acknowledged last evening for his 10 years of service as PDP's visionary and leader. During that time, he organized and managed several private/public partnerships that resulted in

small business and affordable housing opportunities for residents living in low-income neighborhoods of Philadelphia and Chester. Though no longer with PDP full-time, Mr. White continues to be involved with the organization as a consultant.

Leslie Benoliel, Executive Director of PDP, presented honorary plaques to both Mr. White and Councilman Goode in front of a crowd of approximately 150 people. Among those attending the event were dozens of area microentrepreneurs, community leaders and supporters of microenterprise development, including James J. Cuorato, City Representative and Director of the Philadelphia Department of Commerce.

Ms. Benoliel also presented gift certificates to the first and second place winners of the cooking competition. First place went to Patricia Giple, owner of Patty & Safula's Cuisine, for her version of jollof rice, a West African dish. The second place winner was Bridget Carroll, of Bridget Cake of Art, for her intricately decorated cakes. Ms. Benoliel told the crowd, "The microentrepreneurs participating in and attending this evening's event are the life blood of our neighborhoods' economies. Many will become tomorrow's employers and build a legacy to pass on to their children. It is critical to our region's economy that they get the support they need to grow."

Founded in 1989, the Philadelphia Development Partnership is a private, nonprofit organization whose mission is to promote economic development in low and moderate-income neighborhoods of the Philadelphia metropolitan region. PDP provides small amounts of credit, business development services and networking opportunities to low-income entrepreneurs.

PDP is an affiliate of the Greater Philadelphia Urban Affairs Coalition, which brings together business and community leaders to solve urban problems.

For more information about PDP and its microenterprise development programs, please contact Jennifer Krout at (215) 545-3100.

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