

The Wilmington Housing Authority Aims to Expand Opportunities for Minority Owned Construction Companies & Enterprises

Wilmington Mayor Mike Purzycki collaborates with the Wilmington Housing Authority and other organizations to assist enterprises in accessing opportunities.

Wilmington, DE: On March 7, 2022, Wilmington Housing Authority Executive Director, Ray Fitzgerald, and Development Director Andrew Johnson, attended a Meet & Greet Event sponsored by the Mayor's Office. The goal of the event was to provide networking opportunities for minority owned construction businesses and enterprises.

Several people attended the event held at the William "Hicks" Anderson Community Center in Wilmington. Rashad Jolly from Supreme Contractors stated that it was a great idea for the Mayor's Office to host this event, and expressed his enthusiasm in receiving information about partnering with the Wilmington Housing Authority (WHA).

Participating in the event is part of the WHA's vision to engage private and public stakeholders on innovative projects that positively impact the city of Wilmington. Establishing relationships with these construction companies and enterprises is another way to collaborate and implement solutions that will help our residents and communities thrive.

Although a certified minority contractor with the City of Wilmington, SME Contractors, LLC owner, Lila Echevarria, expressed that there've been limited opportunities available to them when dealing with local and general contractors. However, Mayor Purzycki's redevelopment and stabilization deal focuses on removing those obstacles. "This meeting was an example of that," stated Echevarria. "Within 10 minutes of speaking with Ray [Fitzgerald], we both were made aware of the opportunities available to work together. I look forward to building a strong relationship with the WHA and playing a part in executing the goals they have set for their organization."

The purpose of these partnerships is to provide WHA residents with affordable housing. In addition, we're committed to building relationships to provide tools and resources to help our residents thrive.

Will Pass from PittPass Development Group, expressed his enthusiasm that the WHA is "committed to doing positive work for the betterment of those we serve. The PittPass team had a fantastic discussion with Ray about us potentially working together with WHA to help change the blight in our community."

WHA understands that change comes when we all work together. Randy Washington, Owner & CEO, stated that "LSN Contractors & Construction Managers strives to be a leader to drive change in neighborhoods. Mayor Purzycki's commitment to changing the landscape in the City of Wilmington, in tandem with the Wilmington Housing Authority's commitment to the City, aligns perfectly with our goals. We look forward to partnering with the Wilmington Housing Authority to provide construction services throughout the City of Wilmington."

The event was a success. The Wilmington Housing Authority looks forward to continuing to collaborate with businesses to make a positive impact on the community.

About The Wilmington Housing Authority: As the largest direct provider of affordable housing opportunities in the State of Delaware, we're committed to developing, providing, and managing safe, and affordable housing for low-income families in the city of Wilmington. Funded primarily by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, our mission is to provide well-maintained, decent, and safe housing in a professional, efficient, and fiscally responsible manner. The Wilmington Housing

Authority administers over 2,000 housing choice vouchers, manages nearly 2,000 units of public, tax credit, and market rate housing, and serves over 7,000 low moderate-income residents of the city of Wilmington.