



## ***NEWS FROM:***

### **Community & Economic Development Agency**

#### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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#### **Informative Workshops to be presented at Free Oakland Symposium**

Symposium features Special Workshop Track for Restaurateurs

**OAKLAND, Calif.** (May 20, 2010) – Entrepreneurs and business owners interested in attending the 8<sup>th</sup> Small Business Symposium are encouraged to register today for the popular one-day event packed with 34 intensive and informative workshops. Organizers anticipate another sold-out event for 2010. Registration is quick and easy online at [www.oaklandsmallbusiness.com](http://www.oaklandsmallbusiness.com) or by leaving a message on the event's hotline at (510) 986-2855.

New this year, the symposium features a special workshop track for restaurateurs. Organizers recognize the great potential for continued growth in Oakland's vibrant restaurant industry and have incorporated six workshops into a Restaurant Bootcamp track.

The symposium also includes workshops on the Green economy – another industry experiencing growth. Topics from “How is Green Impacting Oakland?” to “What Does it Mean to be ‘Green’ in a Lean and Mean Economy?” will highlight the opportunities Green industry offers local small businesses.

During the symposium's workshops, experts will share their insight and expertise on topical issues business owners and entrepreneurs face in today's challenging business environment. Workshop topics range from hiring qualified employees to financial recordkeeping to building profitability. “This year's programming has been carefully selected to address pressing issues business owners face on a daily basis,” stated Councilmember Larry Reid.

The 8<sup>th</sup> Small Business Symposium will run from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Friday, May 28, 2010, at the Oakland Marriott City Center, 1001 Broadway. **While admission is free, advance registration is required.** Attendees may choose from concurrent workshops offered during three different sessions throughout the day. Registration includes a continental breakfast with opening remarks and a luncheon address by a prominent business leader.

The symposium is presented by the Office of Councilmember Larry Reid and the City of Oakland's Community and Economic Development Agency. The event is made possible by the generous support of Mechanics Bank, the Oakland Redevelopment Agency, OBDC Small Business Finance and the Northern California Minority Supplier Development Council.

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