



NEWS RELEASE

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Internet Address: www.sba.gov/opc/

Contact: Sue Hensley (202) 205-6444

Julie Mittelman, Staples, cell: (617) 699-2117

phone: 508-253-8580

Small Businesses Get Aid In Emergency Planning, Recovery and Cyber-Security at Philadelphia Town Hall Event Hosted by SBA and Staples

PHILADELPHIA, PA – Small business owners should develop emergency and recovery plans for their businesses and implement safeguards to their computer systems to ensure operational continuity, SBA Administrator Hector V. Barreto and Staples, Inc. Chairman and Founder Tom Stemberg said here today.

At a town hall forum hosted today by the SBA and Staples at the Roosevelt Boulevard Staples store, Administrator Barreto told an audience of business owners, "Your importance to your local, state and national economy means that having a business continuity plan is essential. And like anything else in your life or business, preparedness is the key to survival when and if the worst happens."

"The cosponsorship between Staples and the SBA has made it easier for small business owners and home office users to obtain information they need to run their businesses," added Mr. Stemberg. "Staples continues to provide resources for customers and business owners to grow and succeed by conducting sessions on topics that are of interest to the Pennsylvania small business community."

The forum provided an opportunity for the Philadelphia small business community to exchange information on emergency preparedness, business continuity, cyber-security, and the resources they need to survive a disruption to their business. Small business owners expressed their concerns about the current economic and social climate, and tapped into the expertise of top business leaders on how to maximize the potential and safeguard the growth of their small businesses.

Administrator Barreto highlighted a new Web site containing information on business continuity and emergency planning. The SBA's "Be Aware and Prepare" Web page is at <http://www.sba.gov/beawareandprepare/>.

The *SBA Solutions* newsletter now includes tips to assist small business owners with the risk management and information security of their businesses. For a free subscription to the *SBA Solutions* newsletter, go online to <http://www.sba.gov/sbanewsalerts/>.

For more information about all of the SBA's programs for small businesses, call the SBA Answer Desk at 1-800 U ASK SBA or TDD 704-344-6640, or visit the SBA's extensive Web site at <http://www.sba.gov>. You can receive all of the SBA's News Releases via email. To subscribe, visit <http://web.sba.gov/list> and select "Press Office."

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