



For Immediate Release

**MAYOR BOOKER ATTENDS RIBBON-CUTTING CEREMONY
TO LAUNCH OPENING OF NEW SMALL BUSINESS RESTAURANT DOWNTOWN**
New operator expected to provide 20 jobs for local residents

Newark, NJ – November 13, 2008 - Mayor Cory A. Booker was joined today by Deputy Mayor for Economic and Housing Development Stefan Pryor, Brick City Development Corporation Chief Executive Officer Joseph Ritchie, Chief Executive Officer of Hart Restaurant Group Damon Hart, and the co-owner and operator of JT's Original Louisiana Bar-B-Que James Turner to officially celebrate the opening of the new family-style restaurant.

Located on 1011 Broad Street, the 10,500 square foot retail location includes a 110 seat dining room, kitchen, office, and event space open for public use. The family-style cuisine, influenced by Brazilian and Louisiana culture, includes pulled pork, po'boys, ribs, sweet potato pie and JT's authentic barbeque sauce.

"Newark has long been celebrated for its deliciously diverse cuisine and the variety of fine restaurants located throughout the city," said Mayor Booker. "The opening of JT's Barbeque adds another chapter to our long-standing legacy of fine dining, and I personally congratulate and welcome them to our great city."

The \$700,000 investment for the retail space is a hallmark in entrepreneur James Turner's effort to further his brand. In 2007, JT's secured contract with Centerplate Food Service Group, the food service sales manager at the Prudential Center in Newark and various locations worldwide. JT's currently operates 3 kiosks in the arena during all sporting and entertainment events, reaching over 1.2 million ticketholders per season.

"We are so grateful to the Booker Administration for helping us to secure a booth in the Prudential Center arena, which led to the opening of our restaurant in Newark. Darryl Godfrey and his colleagues at BCDC not only helped us with working through the details of getting the restaurant open, but they even connected us to a significant investor – Hart Restaurant Group – which was essential to the operation," said James Turner.

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Brick City Development Corporation, Newark's economic development corporation, provides technical assistance and training for local, small, minority and women-owned business enterprises through its Small Business Development team. "JT's is another example of how our team takes a hands-on approach in developing skills and providing business support for entrepreneurs seeking appropriate financing. Our goal is to increase prosperity in Newark through job creation and business development," said Darryl Godfrey, Senior Vice President of Small Business Development at BCDC.

"Mayor Booker and his administration promised that they would create black wealth and eradicate poverty and that promise has been delivered. With the Mayors support, JT's BBQ is able to afford its own minority brand position in mass retail and cross marketed exposure in the media space via the Newark Arena and its relationship with the NJ Devils, as a minority participant in the vending sector," said Damon Hart of Hart Restaurant Group the co-owner, co-operator and co-manager of JT's BBQ.

JT's Original Louisiana Bar-B-Que will provide 20 employment opportunities for local residents. For more information about the restaurant, JT's products or catering services, visit www.jtsbbq.com.

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