



COMMERCE NEWS

U.S. Department of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

Office of the Secretary
www.commerce.gov

For Immediate Release

ACTING U.S. COMMERCE SECRETARY REBECCA BLANK VISITS NEWARK ONE-STOP CAREER CENTER WITH MAYOR CORY A. BOOKER *Mayor and Acting Secretary Blank discuss the American Jobs Act and its benefits for New Jersey*

NEWARK, N.J. – October 18, 2011 – Acting U.S. Commerce Secretary Rebecca Blank joined Newark Mayor Cory A. Booker yesterday for a visit to the Newark One-Stop Career Center, the City’s public workforce agency that connects residents to career opportunities and works with employers to match employees to businesses looking to hire.

At the One-Stop Career Center, Acting Secretary Blank and Mayor Booker discussed details of President Obama’s American Jobs Act. Acting Secretary Blank highlighted the different ways the plan would make an immediate impact on job creation: cutting taxes for small businesses, putting more money in the pockets of consumers through an expanded payroll tax cut, and preventing the layoffs of teachers, firefighters and policemen, while putting construction workers to work through much-needed renovations to school, roads, rail and airports renovations. Acting Secretary Blank underlined the need for Congress to act quickly on the bipartisan measures in the Jobs Act.

“Our residents, along with families across the country, are suffering through these difficult economic times,” Mayor Booker said. “These are the worst economic times since the Great Depression that our country has faced. As Mayor of Newark, I am urging Congress to pass President Obama’s Jobs bill, which will bring much-needed relief and job creation to Newark’s residents and America as a whole.”

“Outside experts say the American Jobs Act would put nearly 2 million people to work, while putting more money in the pockets of workers and repairing infrastructure vital to enhancing America’s competitiveness,” Acting Secretary Blank said. “It’s time for Democrats and Republicans in Congress to come together and swiftly pass the measures in the Jobs Act, which will put people back to work right away and put more money in the pockets of American families.”

The American Jobs Act would:

- Slash the payroll tax in half for 98 percent of businesses, benefitting 200,000 New Jersey companies;
- Invest in modernization of highways, transit, railways and aviation infrastructure, immediately supporting 17,200 jobs in New Jersey;

- Allow localities to avoid laying off teachers, firefighters and cops – 9,300 in New Jersey alone;
- Modernize at least 35,000 public schools, supporting renovations across the country and as many as 6,700 jobs in New Jersey;
- Put the long-term unemployed – a group that totals 216,000 in New Jersey – back to work by making the most innovative reforms to unemployment insurance in 40 years;
- Extend unemployment insurance, preventing 5 million Americans, including 104,300 in New Jersey, from losing their benefits; and,
- Cut payroll taxes in half for 160 million workers next year, giving the typical New Jersey family a \$2,020 tax cut.

“As our nation faces the most critical economic challenges, we are working diligently here in our local community to provide services to help our residents retool their skills, prepare for alternative vocational careers and have been intensifying our efforts to provide job readiness skills through resume writing, interviewing techniques, and career development workshops. Last year, we assisted over 20,000 Newark residents who walked into our doors seeking assistance and hoping to be placed in a job soon. Our efforts can only be accelerated into positive employment outcomes with a strong plan for economic recovery...one that promotes sustainable hiring and supports the efforts we are making locally to train and prepare thousands of residents,” said Nelida Valentin, who served as Mistress of Ceremonies and is the Executive Director of the Newark Workforce Investment Board.

The Newark Workforce Investment Board is responsible for overall policy development and oversight of workforce delivery in the Newark local region. The Newark Workforce Investment Board also oversees the One Stop Career Center, which provides vocational training and offers continuing education services that aim to meet the needs of both employers and job seekers. Programs and employment services are provided through the Mayor’s employment and training entity, NewarkWORKS, along with employment services partners co-located at the agency from the New Jersey Department of Labor and the New Jersey Division of Vocational Rehabilitation.

During Mayor Booker’s remarks, he highlighted the achievements of Dental Kidz, a small local minority-owned business which provides oral health to children up to 12 years old, as an example of a successful Newark small business that would benefit from the Jobs Act.

“I’m a strong proponent of the President's American Jobs Act. I believe it will be great for small business as a whole and will have a profound impact on the economy. Cutting the payroll tax in half will specifically be helpful to my business,” said Dental Kidz CEO and Co-Founder Christopher Harvell. The dental clinic opened its office in Newark in 2009 thanks to support from the Brick City Development Corporation Grow Newark Fund.

Since taking office in July 2006, the Booker administration has made meaningful employment for Newark residents a high priority, with creative and innovative approaches to doing so. These have included the creation of NewarkWorks, a one-stop employment center that offers job counseling, on-line searches, access to educational and vocational programs, and partnerships with employers and public and private sector organizations. Other initiatives have included job fairs, youth internship and mentoring programs, efforts to ensure that employers in Newark provide jobs to residents, and the creation of Family Success Centers and Fatherhood Success

Centers to help residents with their job search, interview, and workplace skills. The Mayor has also set a high priority on employment for returning veterans with his support of the GI Go Fund and its programs, as well as breaking cycles of unemployment, poverty, and recidivism by creating and supporting ex-prisoners with re-entry programs to help them gain jobs, find housing and medical care, and receive counseling.

For more information about the One-Stop Career Center you can call **(973) 733-8500**. For information on all City of Newark programs and policies, contact the Non-Emergency Call Center at **(973) 733-4311**.

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About the City of Newark, New Jersey

Newark, commonly referred to as Brick City, is the third oldest city in the United States and the largest in New Jersey, with a population of more than 280,000 people. Newark sits on one of the nation's largest transportation super-structures including an international airport, major commuter and freight rail lines, major highway intersections and the busiest seaport on the east coast.

With a new Administration as of July 2006, Newark continues to see signs of a strong revival. Its population showed growth in the most recent census. Its six major colleges and universities are further expanding their presence. The rate of production of affordable housing has doubled, and new businesses are moving in. There is still much work to be done but Newark is on its way to achieving its mission: to set a national standard for urban transformation.

About Brick City Development Corporation

Brick City Development Corporation (BCDC) is the primary economic development catalyst for Newark, New Jersey, organized to retain, attract and grow businesses, enhance small and minority business capacity, and spur real estate development within the city.

BCDC initiates and executes economic development activities to produce and sustain economic growth, generate jobs and create wealth for the citizens of Newark. Our team serves as advocates within the City's municipal structure and provides a hands-on client management approach. For more information on BCDC, please visit our website at www.bcdcnewark.org.

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