



July 9, 2007
CONTACT :
Anthony McCarthy
(410) 869-6079 (Cell)

Buy Local Baltimore Contact:
Keith Losoya, 443-838-1826

MAYOR SHEILA DIXON ANNOUNCES GO BACK TO SCHOOL AND BUY LOCAL WEEK

Baltimore, MD (July 9, 2007) – Citing the important role local businesses play in Baltimore neighborhoods, Mayor Sheila Dixon announced "Go Back to School and Buy Local Week," which will take place August 18 – 25, 2007.

"Our small, locally-owned businesses are a key part of Baltimore's economy," Mayor Dixon said. "The jobs and opportunities they create improve our city every day, and I am pleased to encourage City residents to buy from our local shops."

The campaign will be run and promoted by The Mayor's Office of Minority & Women-Owned Business Development in partnership with the Buy Local Baltimore program and the Main Streets Initiative.

"Go Back to School and Buy Local Week" is designed to encourage our residents, small businesses, and large corporations to consider purchasing their goods and services from Baltimore City's small and local merchants, during this week. Circulating consumer dollars into the City of Baltimore is vital to the growth and development of our local, small, minority and women-owned businesses.

In addition to encouraging local buying by residents, the Mayor's Office of Minority and Women-owned Business Development will sponsor membership in the Chesapeake Sustainable Business Alliance for 200 minority or women-owned businesses for one year. That membership allows business to participate in the Alliance's Buy Local program, as well as the Baltimore Development Corporation's Main Streets Initiative. To obtain an application you may visit our website at www.baltimorecity.gov.

In addition Baltimore's small & local merchants can participate in this week long campaign by registering online at CSBA's website free of charge, (www.csballiance.org) or from the link at Baltimore Main Street's website, (www.baltimoremainstreets.org).

###

Please visit our website at www.baltimorecity.gov