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MDC'S MIKE JEFFERSON RECEIVES NATIONAL AWARD FROM U.S. EPA
MDC employee honored for work with small, minority and women-owned businesses

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(HARTFORD, CT) Mike Jefferson, MDC Diversity Manager at The Metropolitan District (MDC), was presented with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Administrator's Award for Outstanding State, Local or Tribal Office Performance Achievement. Jefferson was the sole recipient selected for national honor. The award was presented at the U.S. EPA Administrator's 24th Annual Small Business Program Awards Ceremony in Washington D.C., which recognizes various program activities, individuals, businesses and state and local entities for their outstanding contributions.

Jefferson was honored for his outstanding efforts in the development of local small business, minority and women-owned business enterprises for participation in the MDC's \$2.1 billion Clean Water Project (CWP). Under Jefferson, the MDC's Diversity Office efforts include multiple strategies for reaching out to local businesses, such as contractor development training programs that provide information on how to obtain financing or marketing, match maker events that allow suppliers and small contractors to network with prime contractors, and strategic partnerships with key agencies and organizations that provide additional assistance. Since the inception of the Clean Water Project, general contracts and subcontracts awarded to minority and women owned businesses total nearly \$190 million.

"The MDC is extremely proud of Mike's work on behalf of minority businesses in the District," stated MDC Chairman William DiBella. "He has provided them with the opportunity to build long term partnerships with the MDC and its contractors."

"Mike's national recognition from his peers is an example of how the small, minority and women-owned business outreach component of the MDC's Clean Water Project is a model for other municipalities to follow," said MDC Commissioner Thea Montanez, the Chair of the MDC's Community Affairs Committee.

Local firms have also recognized Jefferson's efforts to help their businesses. Edna Clunie, of Hartford and President of REC Trucking, said, "I started my business in 2008 and it was a struggle. In 2011, I started to work with the MDC, and since then my business has improved greatly. Mike has been pushing us and has been a great help."

About the MDC: *The MDC is a nonprofit municipal corporation chartered by the Connecticut General Assembly in 1929. The MDC provides water, sewer and household hazardous waste collection services to its member municipalities: Bloomfield, East Hartford, Hartford, Newington, Rocky Hill, West Hartford, Wethersfield and Windsor. In addition, under a series of special agreements, the District supplies treated water to portions of Glastonbury, South Windsor, Farmington, and East Granby.*

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