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## THE MDC RECOGNIZED AT SUPPLIER DIVERSITY STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP EVENT

*Local Minority and Women Owned Businesses Highlighted*



**For Immediate Release**  
**May 27, 2014**

**(HARTFORD, CT)** –The Metropolitan District’s (MDC) Supplier Diversity Strategic Partnership Council hosted a conference at the Hartford Public Library to highlight the achievements of the partnership and provide an opportunity for members of the group to renew their commitments going forward. The Council’s mission is to enhance the development of local small business, minority, women and disadvantaged business enterprises (SBE, MBE, WBE and DBE’s) for participation in the MDC’s \$2.1 billion Clean Water Project (CWP).

The strategic partners attending the event included the U.S. Small Business Association (**SBA**) Connecticut District Office, US Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency (**MBDA**), the University of Hartford’s Entrepreneurial Center, HEDCO, Inc., and the State Department of Economic and Community Development (**DECD**).

Several of the SBE’s, MBE’s, and WBE’s that have directly benefited from the programs and resources provided by the MDC and its partners were recognized at the event. The business owners thanked the MDC and its Diversity Manager, Mike Jefferson, for their successful efforts to help foster equal opportunities for small contractors. “I am thankful for the opportunities that the MDC has provided my business and especially, Mike Jefferson, for all of his hard work and the results achieved” stated Nancy Garthwaite, President of Garf Trucking.

Edna Clunie, of Hartford and President of REC Trucking, told the crowd “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.”



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Larry Wells, of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's New England Region, Office of Small Business Development was one of the event's featured speakers and announced to the group, "I have traveled all across the region and you can tell when you are working with someone special in this industry. Mike Jefferson is a leader in advancing disadvantaged businesses and I would like to announce today that Mike will be a recipient of the Administrator's Award for Outstanding State, Local or Tribal Office Performance Achievement."

The MBDA also presented each of the partners with an award as well as a plaque for the entire group to commemorate their collective efforts.

**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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