

**Senator Cardin Visits a HUBZone Business in West Baltimore to Assure Small Business Owners That He Is
In Support Of Creating More Opportunities for HubZone Businesses and Ex-Felons**

On a gray rainy morning in West Baltimore the sun was shining bright, as U.S. Senator Benjamin Cardin, D, Maryland returned to his roots where he grew up as a lad. The site was the headquarters and office of Allen & Son Moving & Storage Casino Supplies/Services which is located in a historically underutilized business zone (HUBZone) and a different place where Senator Cardin as a youth spread his wings.

Senator Cardin came to shed light on the positive effects for small and minority businesses on the recent health care bill signed into law by president Obama. Senator Cardin also addressed issues dealing with HUB Zone business utilization on federal contracts which delighted the majority of the attendees. In addition, Senator Cardin addressed legislation he will introduce to congress calling for debundling of large federal contracts and providing direct aid to urban centers for training returning ex-felons. To everyone's delight Senator Cardin said he is working with Governor O'Malley in bringing TARP funds to the state that will match state funds to open up capital to small businesses. The amount in question will total in the hundreds of millions of dollars. Senator Cardin said he favors all three methods proposed to get funds to businesses either by SBA guaranteed loans, funding by commercial and community banks or direct loans by the SBA itself. He reiterated that "We need to get the funds to the deserving businesses so they can succeed."

The event was sponsored by Allen & Son Moving & Storage, Casino Supplies/Services, Allen Burrus, President; Kayden Premier Enterprises, Inc., Marques Ogden, President; L&J Waste Recycling, LLC, Lenzie Johnson, III President and L & J Construction Service, Inc., Lenzie Johnson, Jr., President; All are minority-owned businesses that shared a similar sentiment and felt that it was necessary to bring Senator Cardin to this forum to hear his views and/or plans first hand. Mr. Burrus said, "I appreciate Senator Cardin returning to a different community from the one he grew up in and offering solutions to HUBZone located businesses. It made my wife and me very proud to host this historic meeting."

Mr. Johnson said, "Senator Cardin provided hope for my business to continue hiring ex-felons. His pledge to fund more resources for the training and development can only help in turning around lives."

Mr. Ogden said, "If it takes a special business to be located within a HUBZone because of the stigma of the location, but for Kayden it was one of the wisest decisions we've made, and if Senator Cardin follows through on his pledge to widen HUBZone utilization on federal contracts we will do even better."

Wayne Frazier, Sr., of the Md. Washington Minority Contractors' Association, Inc. said, "Senator Cardin and his staff are truly committed to turning this country around. By virtue of his appearance today within the HUBZone demonstrates that he is interested in urban job creation too. I am proud to call him my Senator."

Charlie Eaton, of Hensel Phelps Construction Co. said, "This was a great event and I applaud MWMCA for attracting such a wide range of Baltimore businesses that engaged the Senator and offered reasonable solutions. I also applaud Senator Cardin for talking about and listening to the issues facing small businesses and for championing small businesses issues in Washington, DC. As a representative of a large non DBE and Non-HUBZone business, my attendance brought me more of an insight on what HUBZone DBE businesses needed; access to capital, better enforcement of small business goals and regulations, and a more streamlined HUBZone certification process. Additionally, MWMCA's HUBZone town hall meeting solidified my belief that DBE HUBZone Businesses can and should be driving force to employ and train our inner city workforce who desperately need an opportunity to fulfill their dream."