



White House to host Baltimore-area small business leaders

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By Jack Lambert

Some 35 small business leaders from the Baltimore area will travel to the White House on Wednesday afternoon to express their concerns about the economy.

The event is designed to let the White House talk directly to businesses about the economy, said John Kennedy, president of Three Dog Logistics in Baltimore. It will also allow business leaders to voice their concerns about health care reform and ask what sort of tax breaks companies could be seeing down the road.

"We're very excited to go there to voice our opinion, first of all," Kennedy said. "And it's a very diverse group of people from Baltimore."

In addition to Three Dog Logistics, other businesses represented at the event include Urban Pirates, Marine Steel Wire Products, aMuse Toys and Union Box Co.

The group will be meeting with members of President Barack Obama's administration. They include Jason Miller, special assistant to the president for manufacturing policy; Ari Matusiak, executive director of the White House Business Council and Greg Nelson, deputy director of the White House Office of Public Engagement.

White House officials will discuss with the group Obama's economic plans. They will also be taking questions from the business leaders.

That is important to Max Kryzhanovskiy, president of MOS Creative in Columbia.

"I'm not trying to be star struck, 'Oh I'm going to the White House,'" Kryzhanovskiy said. "I really want to see who's going to be there and what kind of things they are going to share with us."

The meeting comes a few weeks after White House officials met with women-owned business leaders in the Baltimore area.

The Baltimore-area businesspeople traveling to D.C. are:

Bill Allen, Allen & Shariff Corp., partner.

Will Beckford, Baltimore Development Corp., managing director of commercial revitalization.

Carol Coughlin, BottomLine Growth Strategies, founder and CEO.

Mark Dambly, Pennrose, president.

Rick Edson, Housing Capital Advisors Inc., managing director.

Kirby Fowler, Downtown Partnership of Baltimore, president.

Neil Furukawa, CyberPoint International, vice president.

Drew Greenblatt, Marlin Steel Wire Products, president.

Aaron Greenfield, Duane Morris, special counsel.

Cara Hergan, Joyce Urban Pirates, co-owner and CEO.
Frank Islam, FI Investment Group, CEO and chairman.
Nick Johnson, Su Casa, owner and president.
John Kennedy, Three Dog Logistics, president and CEO.
Lauren King Bolin, Urban Pirates, co-owner and CFO.
Josh Kinley, PCI Strategic Management, partner.
Martin Knott, Knott Mechanical, president.
Max Kryzhanovskiy, MOS Creative, president.
Jim Kucher, Evergreen Health Cooperative, executive director.
Donna Langle, Baltimore Main Streets, director.
Jon Laria, Ballard Spahr LLP, partner.
Philippe Lerner, PL Consulting, founder and CEO.
Mark Montgomery, Ports America Chesapeake, president and CEO.
Jay Salkini, Tecore Networks, president and CEO.
Rob Santoni, Santoni's Super Market, president.
Alison Schuch, Fells Point Surf Co, owner and CEO.
Zack Shariff, Allen & Shariff Corp, partner.
Larry Silverstein, Union Box Company, president.
Kinya Stewart, Legacy Builders & Construction Services, CEO and president.
Jimmy Stewart, Legacy Builders & Construction Services, vice president of business development.
Ryan Sysko, WellDoc, founder and CEO.
Claudia Towles, aMuse Toys, co-owner.
Don Whitfield, PCI Strategic Management, partner.
Arnold Williams, Abrams, Foster, Nole & Williams, P.A., managing director.
Christina Wyskiel, CWW Research, founder and CEO.