

## **Charleston County News Release**

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See workshop photos: <http://www.charlestoncounty.org/NewsImages/meeting.htm>

### **Charleston County Holds Successful “Contacts to Contracts” Meeting**

Charleston County Government held its first “Contacts to Contracts” workshop on Oct. 4 in the county’s Public Services Building in North Charleston.

Approximately 42 business owners and entrepreneurs attended the workshop. The purpose of the workshop was to develop relationships between small business owners, particularly Minority/Women/Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (MWDBE’s), and Charleston County Government department supervisors.

Twelve County departments were represented at the workshop:

- Procurement
- Capital Projects
- Public Works
- Information Technology
- Sheriff’s Office
- Facilities Management
- RoadWise (Transportation “Half-Cent” Sales Tax program)
- Grants Administration
- Department of Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Services
- Internal Services
- Fleet Operations
- Global Information Systems (GIS)

Each department set up a table with information on upcoming projects, current bids, and how to transact business with the county.

“The meeting was formatted so the small business owner to have a one-on-one session with County Government supervisors in an effort to introduce the company and its services to those supervisors, and discuss contract opportunities,” said Barrett Tolbert, Charleston County’s Minority/Women Business Coordinator. “The workshop enabled county supervisors to meet new vendors, and explore ways to provide opportunities for the firms. This networking concept brings two entities together to bridge the old proverbial gap that government is not in touch with the small entrepreneur.”

For more information on Charleston County’s Minority/Women Business Program, contact Barrett Tolbert at (843) 958-4761 or [btolbert@charlestoncounty.org](mailto:btolbert@charlestoncounty.org).

Visit the county’s Web site at [www.charlestoncounty.org](http://www.charlestoncounty.org) for news and information relating to Charleston County Government.