

**CITY OF ALBANY  
CITY COUNCIL AGENDA  
STAFF REPORT**

Agenda Date: 1/21/2009

Reviewed by: JL

**SUBJECT:** City Co-sponsorship of Workshop for Small Businesses

**REPORT BY:** Judy Lieberman, Assistant City Administrator

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**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Approve City co-sponsorship, with Chamber of Commerce and the Solano Avenue Association, of a workshop on tips for small businesses on February 11, 2009, and authorize City's name and names of Council Members Thomsen and Wile to be listed on the flyer.

**BACKGROUND**

As part of the City's economic development activities, a workshop has been planned to assist small/medium-sized businesses with strategies on how to cope with difficult economic times. Council members Thomsen and Wile have been working with the city's economic development consultant, the Solano Avenue Association, and the Chamber of Commerce to develop a workshop, which is now scheduled for February 11, 2009. Preliminary feedback from our businesses indicates a high interest in this workshop. Our consultant has suggested that the City be listed as a co-sponsor, and that Councilmember Wile and Thomsen be listed as well, to show the City's overall support and commitment to the health of our existing businesses.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT**

The workshop will assist in creating a more sustainable Albany by helping small businesses to survive and thrive in Albany. This impacts our efforts to encourage residents to shop local, which can decrease vehicular pollution and carbon emissions in our region.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

None. There are no city funds requested.