



## **For Immediate Release**

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Contact: Lisa Harrison Smith

c. 801-913-9748

### **Neighborhood Business Conference to Empower Local Businesses**

*Conference Offers Best Practices for Creating Synergistic Residential and Business Communities*

SALT LAKE CITY – Salt Lake City’s Economic Development department is hosting the City’s first Neighborhood Business Conference on Thursday, Jan. 28, 2010 at the Hotel Monaco from 8a.m. to noon. The Conference; also sponsored by the Salt Lake Chamber, Downtown Alliance, Vest Pocket, Local First, and other community and business organizations, is aimed at supplying tools and strategies to strengthen neighborhood business districts and enhance local vitality. Experts from Seattle and Tacoma will share tips on creating collaborative opportunities for neighborhood businesses.

Attendees of the conference will gain insights from Karen Selander, senior community development specialist of the Neighborhood Business District Program for the City of Seattle, and Kala Dralle, program development specialist for the City of Tacoma. Two panels of local business owners and community leaders will also offer comments and ideas.

At the conference, the City will announce a newly filled position as part of the Small Business Help Center within the Community and Economic Development Division. This new coordinator will help small business owners navigate the planning, permitting and zoning requirements of their businesses. As part of the City’s Small Business Toolkit, this individual will help business owners to streamline necessary processes to be able to focus on the success of their businesses.

“Local businesses throughout the Salt Lake Valley are weathering today’s tough economic conditions and remain committed to strengthening the communities they are connected to,” said Betsy Burton, proprietor of the Kings English Bookstore. “The support of the City as a business partner and advocate for independent, locally-owned businesses makes a big difference in keeping bookstores, restaurants and shops alive in our vibrant neighborhoods.”

“As we reach for a more livable and vibrant City, we must look to strengthen our neighborhoods and the businesses that remain committed to them” said Mayor Ralph Becker. “I encourage small business owners to come to our Neighborhood Business Conference and join in the discussion as we collaborate to improve opportunities for businesses to thrive and flourish in Salt Lake City. “

For additional about the Neighborhood Business Conference, please contact Robyn Stanczyk at [robyn.stanczyk@slcgov.com](mailto:robyn.stanczyk@slcgov.com) or at 801-535-6230.

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