



# Press Kit

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## CONTACTS

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## Media Advisory

**WHO** Florida Consortium of Black Businesses (FLCBB), a collective group of black business owners and advocacy organizations, brings a united voice of the 187,000 black business owners in Florida to promote business opportunities and advocate for programs and services to strengthen existing businesses.

**WHAT** FLCBB is hosting the **2014 Florida Black Business Day and Bus Trip** to Tallahassee in conjunction with **Florida Conference of Black State Legislators Town Hall Meeting on Friday, March 21, 2014** to articulate the issues of thousands of black businesses to Florida's black legislators.

**WHEN** **Friday, March 21, 2014**  
**9:30 am-2:00 pm**

The bus will depart Orlando at 5:00 a.m. and arrive at 9:00 a.m. in Tallahassee. Upon arrival the attendees will participate in the Town Hall Meeting & Question and Answer panel from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.; and the Matchmaking Sessions/Business Expo with the state's top procurement agencies from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The event will conclude with a reception and small group session between the FLCBB attendees and the black legislators, after which the bus will depart Tallahassee by 4:00 p.m. and arrive back in Orlando by 8:00 p.m.

**WHERE** Event Location:  
**Majorie Turnbull Conference Center**  
555 West Pensacola Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32301  
Please note the bus departs Orlando.

**WHY** This is an opportunity for black businesses to have their issues heard and addressed by the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators which is the first step in affecting policy changes to the Legislature, Cabinet Officials, State Department Officers and Private Corporations throughout Florida.

Black business owners throughout Florida are invited to become a part of this consortium. Over the course of the one day bus trip, Florida's black business leaders will be able to network with key decision-makers at a legislative level and business level while stating the issues that impact their businesses to the state's black legislators.

**Trip registration is open and organizers are urging the business community to join them to get their voices heard. In addition, to the Town Hall meeting in Tallahassee, the fee includes travel and food. Each ticket is \$125.00. For additional event details and to purchase tickets, visit [www.flcbb.com](http://www.flcbb.com) or call: 407-843-9901.**



## Press Release – Short Version

### PRESS RELEASE

#### *Advocating for Open Opportunities*

#### **FLCBB Hosts Bus Trip to Bring Black Businesses Together to Advocate for Business Opportunities at the Capitol**

Florida Consortium of Black Businesses (FLCBB), a collective group of black business owners and advocacy organizations, brings a united voice of the 187,000 black business owners in Florida to promote business opportunities and advocate for programs and services to strengthen existing businesses.

FLCBB is hosting the **2014 Florida Black Business Day and Bus Trip** to Tallahassee in conjunction with **Florida Conference of Black State Legislators Town Hall Meeting on Friday, March 21, 2014** to articulate the issues of thousands of black businesses to Florida's black legislators. The bus will depart Orlando at 5:00 a.m. and arrive at 9:00 a.m. in Tallahassee. Upon arrival the attendees will participate in the Town Hall Meeting and Question and Answer panel from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.; and the Matchmaking Sessions/Business Expo with the state's top procurement agencies from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The event will conclude with a reception and small group session between the FLCBB attendees and the black legislators, after which the bus will depart Tallahassee by 4:00 p.m. and arrive back in Orlando by 8:00 p.m.

This is an opportunity for black businesses to have their issues heard and addressed by the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators which is the first step in affecting policy changes to the Legislature, Cabinet Officials, State Department Officers and Private Corporations throughout Florida.

Since its inception in 2011, FLCBB events are intended to foster an open and positive communication of Florida's black business owners with local and state elected officials as well as top procurement agencies in order to formulate strategic initiatives that would assist in "*opening business*" opportunities for black businesses. As well, FLCBB has researched and continues to develop a slate of policy issues to which they can lend their collective support to educate policy makers. Currently the organizations has many partners, including: BBIF Florida, Central Florida African American Chamber of Commerce, Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce of Florida, Florida Association of Minority Business Enterprise Officials, National Association of Black Women in Construction and Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corporation to name only a few.

Black business owners throughout Florida are invited to become a part of this consortium. Over the course of the one day bus trip, Florida's black business leaders will be able to network with key decision-makers at a legislative level and business level while stating the issues that impact their businesses to the state's black legislators.

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— End —

Event Flyer

PLAN TO PARTICIPATE




**FLORIDA BLACK BUSINESS DAY**  
**TALLAHASSEE BUS TRIP**  
 TO PARTICIPATE IN THE  
**FLORIDA CONFERENCE OF BLACK STATE LEGISLATORS**  
**TOWN HALL MEETING**

TAKING OUR BUSINESS TO TALLAHASSEE

MATCHMAKING - TOWN HALL- LEGISLATIVE NETWORKING  
**FRIDAY, MARCH 21, 2014**  
**9:30 AM-2:00 PM**  
**MAJORIE TURNBULL CONFERENCE CENTER**  
 555 WEST PENSACOLA STREET - TALLAHASSEE, FL 32301

CLICK  
HERE TO  
REGISTER  
ONLINE

**TICKETS**  
**\$125.00**  
 INCLUDES  
 TRAVEL AND FOOD

**THIS IS A ONE DAY BUS TRIP**  
**BUS FROM ORLANDO - ADDITIONAL CITIES ADDED BASED ON DEMAND**  
**BUS LEAVES AT 5:00 A.M. AND RETURNS BY 8:00 P.M.**

GET MORE INFO & PURCHASE BUS PASSES  
**WWW.FLCBB.COM**  
 FOR INQUIRES, CALL 407-843-9901



## News Article – Long Version

### New Article

#### *Advocating for Open Opportunities*

##### **FLCBB Hosts Bus Trip to Bring Black Businesses Together to Advocate for Business Opportunities at the Capitol**

Florida Consortium of Black Businesses (FLCBB), a collective group of black business owners and advocacy organizations, brings a united voice of the 187,000 black business owners in Florida to promote business opportunities and advocate for programs and services to strengthen existing businesses.

FLCBB is hosting the **2014 Florida Black Business Day and Bus Trip** to Tallahassee in conjunction with **Florida Conference of Black State Legislators Town Hall Meeting on Friday, March 21, 2014** to articulate the issues of thousands of black businesses to Florida's black legislators. The bus will depart Orlando at 5:00 a.m. and arrive at 9:00 a.m. in Tallahassee. Upon arrival the attendees will participate in the Town Hall Meeting and Question and Answer panel from 9:30 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.; and the Matchmaking Sessions/Business Expo with the state's top procurement agencies from 11:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. The event will conclude with a reception and small group session between the FLCBB attendees and the black legislators, after which the bus will depart Tallahassee by 4:00 p.m. and arrive back in Orlando by 8:00 p.m.

This is an opportunity for black businesses to have their issues heard and addressed by the Florida Conference of Black State Legislators which is the first step in affecting policy changes to the Legislature, Cabinet Officials, State Department Officers and Private Corporations throughout Florida.

Attorney Veronica Anderson, President, Anderson and Associates, P.A. of Orlando, FL served over two decades in the minority business development field on the city, county and state levels and says that it is imperative that programs and services be made available for the cultivation and strengthening of black businesses in Florida. "We have consistently witness a systematic watering down of programs that benefit minorities and specifically black businesses across the state. To build and maintain a strong economy in the sunshine state, we must seek to grow and support small, disadvantaged and black businesses, because they create jobs."

Since its inception in 2011, FLCBB events are intended to foster an open and positive communication of Florida's black business owners with local and state elected officials as well as top procurement agencies in order to formulate strategic initiatives that would assist in "opening business" opportunities for black businesses. As well, FLCBB has researched and continues as develop a slate of policy issues to which they can lend their collective support to educate policy makers. Currently the organizations has many partners, including: BBIF Florida, Central Florida African American Chamber of Commerce, Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce of Florida, Florida Association of Minority Business Enterprise Officials, National Association of Black Women in Construction and Tampa Bay Black Business Investment Corporation to name only a few.

Deborah Thompson, President of DKT Consultants of Jacksonville, FL said, "This bus trip to Tallahassee gives us an opportunity to work together as a group. We need to partner and team together. Going to Tallahassee and meeting with the state legislators and agencies gives us an opportunity to market and develop relationships."

— More —





Black business owners throughout Florida are invited to become a part of this consortium. Over the course of the one day bus trip, Florida's black business leaders will be able to network with key decision-makers at a legislative level and business level while stating the issues that impact their businesses to the state's black legislators.

Guenet Gittens-Roberts, President, Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce of Florida, Inc., said "Black businesses in Florida have to be more proactive about getting their voices heard, this Bus Trip is a step towards showing that the business community is here and ready for their share of the business pie in Florida."

Poverty and unemployment rates among Florida's minority communities are double and triple that of the majority communities. Job creation is the key to reversing this negative trend that impacts all of Florida and the FLCBB initiatives are imploring the participation of public-private companies and governmental entities to participate in this event.

"We must do something different", said Ann McNeil, President of MCO Construction of Miami. "It's hard to go to Tallahassee numerous times seeking opportunity and not get any business. We face barriers such as bonding requirements on construction projects that are set way too low in the Florida statute. Right now, it's at \$250,000 when it needs to be increased and required on projects at \$500,000 and above. We need some legislative changes and sponsors in both the house and the senate."

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— End —



## Organization Profile & History

### ***FLCBB, Means Open Business Opportunities to Florida's Black Businesses***

The Florida Consortium of Black Businesses (FCBB), a collective group of black business owners and advocacy organizations forming to bring a united voice of black business owners in Florida for business opportunities. Florida black businesses participated in a Statewide Black Business Day in Tallahassee.

A core group of businesses have met and voiced their aspirations and identified some changes that are needed regionally and statewide. The first meeting occurred in October 2011, when the BBIF Florida, Central Florida African American Chamber of Commerce, Caribbean American Chamber of Commerce of Florida, Central Florida Urban League, Central and North Florida Minority Supplier Development Council and Orange County NAACP presented in partnership the 1st Annual Central Florida Black Business Day event.

The purpose of the Black Business Day event was to foster an open and positive communication of Central Florida's black business owners with local and state elected officials as well as Central Florida's top procurement agencies in order to formulate strategic initiatives that would assist in "opening business" opportunities for black businesses. Black business owners throughout Florida are invited to become a part of this consortium.

There have been discussions with the Florida Black Caucus and this day was set-aside for our black business owners to meet with our legislators and continues to organize into a cohesive manner. Your support and attendance was vital to our success in finding, exploring and creating solutions for black business growth in Florida. We are requesting your continued support of the consortium and help to create strategies that support "opening business opportunities for black businesses in Florida". Black businesses create thousands of jobs and impacts Florida's economy in excess of millions of dollars annually.

Often in conversation, a business owner or small business advocate will bemoan that black owned businesses are not speaking out about policies and issues that impact them. There are people who are concerned about an absence of voice on a statewide level to speak about business opportunities in the private and public sector. Anecdotally, it seems that the economy, business practices, lack of access to capital and other factors have resulted in the slow growth or the demise of some black owned businesses; but no one is actually documenting this observation.

The FLCBB believes in the following:

- Black businesses must collectively define and maintain a purpose that can be supported and advocated through a statewide organization
- Black businesses must gain access to substantial capital and build capacity and wealth
- Black businesses must understand the marketplace and make sure that the marketplace includes significant representation of black businesses
- Black businesses must build an effective growth planning system to include growth industries and measure/report the growth
- Black businesses must increase its customer base in the private and public sectors
- Black businesses must use technology and put the power of technology to work
- Black businesses must attract and keep the best and brightest employees and professional service providers
- Black businesses must develop trust, conduct business among its members and generate a strong referral network among its members
- Black businesses must support its leaders and advocates and hold each other accountable for quality results