

Green Collar Jobs Roundtable General Body Convening

June 17, 2009

Welcome and Introduction by J. Mijin Cha

Good morning and welcome to the third convening of the Green Collar Jobs Roundtable general body. I'd like to begin by thanking Laura Caruso and SEIU local 32BJ for providing us with this wonderful space. Thank you also to Lianna Gommori and the staff at Urban Agenda for all their hard work in bringing this convening together.

I want to take this time to reflect on the significance of this moment and recognize the hard work that many of you put into bringing us to this point today. A little over a year ago, we celebrated the launch of the Roundtable. Many of you were here to witness the beginning of this endeavor. Since that time, we have worked together to create a long-term plan for green collar jobs workforce development in our City. We've also welcomed new faces as we broadened our coalition to over 170 organizations.

Today's convening brings us the conclusion of one chapter and the beginning of another. Following the last general body convening, a series of working groups met to tackle various aspects of workforce development. The working groups looked at:

- the current landscape,
- how to develop and expand training programs and certifications for green collar jobs
- how to reach out to target populations to ensure everyone has access to good, green-collar jobs
- how to engage employers and develop green businesses
- how to ensure proper job standards are in place for the jobs that are being created

Alongside these working groups, the outreach and political strategy group provided guidance and strategic planning for how to move the green collar jobs workforce development agenda.

Today we celebrate the huge accomplishment we have achieved. The working groups have come up with recommendations that we will touch on here and will be flushed out in more detail in the Roadmap that will be released in the fall.

I'd like to take a moment here to extend a special thank you to Myles Lennon for all his hard work and dedication. Myles worked tirelessly with all the working groups and helped bring the process to where we are now.

Now that the recommendations have been gathered, we look to the next stage of the Roundtable: turning the recommendations from policy to action. Armed with the information gathered to date, it is now time for us to put pressure on our elected officials to implement the recommendations that this broad-based, far-reaching coalition has put forth and bring New York City to the forefront of the new, green collar economy.

As President Obama states, this is our moment. This is our time. In this incredible time, with your help and dedication, we will create a new future where all New Yorkers will have access to good jobs that pay family sustaining wages, paid benefits, and pathways out of poverty. We've completed the first step and now we turn to making our vision a reality. Thank you for everything you've contributed and I look forward to continuing the campaign together.