



Proposal to assist the small businesses of Eastern Market

A terrible fire devastated the main building at Eastern Market on Sunday April 29, 2007. It is estimated that it may take as long as a year or more to rebuild this space. One question that has come up is what these small businesses can do to hold onto their valuable employees during this transition period. Everyone is aware that good employees are the heart and soul of a successful small business. We have established an organization to assist the small businesses of Eastern Market. Here is how it works:

- We are calling upon the local businesses of Capitol Hill to hire workers during the transition period. Employment could be anything from full-time work, to part-time work on a daily basis.
- We will have a local office and be the clearinghouse for placing these workers in local businesses.
- We are not seeking permanent employment for the employees of EM. We are seeking to help each person during this transition period so they can return to their previous places of employment.
- This is not charity. We are seeking real jobs which require the value-added contributions of workers to companies that are seeking to generate profits from the efforts of these persons.
- The small businesses of Eastern Market, whose employees we assist to find work, will work with us as we seek to help their employees.
- We are looking for a convenient place where employees and others can gather to receive assignments, information, and training.
- The greater Capitol Hill community will be informed about the small businesses that provide employment to Eastern Market persons and everyone is encouraged to patronize these businesses and express their appreciation to them.
- We have formed a steering committee composed of owners of the small businesses of Eastern Market, owners of small businesses who are on Capitol Hill, civic leaders, and other persons with interest or expertise who can assist us in organizing this effort.
- We are in contact with the city and with local civic organizations and have their support and encouragement in this effort.