

EPA Small Business Town Hall Meeting

February 20, 2009

Next Thursday, February 26, 2009 Renaissance/Start Up and the City of East Palo Alto are hosting a final **East Palo Alto Small Business Town Hall Meeting**. We hope to see you there for this important conversation!

The current economic downturn is hurting small businesses in our community, and East Palo Alto loses every time one closes its doors or moves out of town. Residents lose jobs, and needed goods and services disappear from our City - and this takes money out of East Palo Alto that could benefit our community. **Every dollar you spend in East Palo Alto makes our City stronger**, but you can't spend your money here if there aren't enough local businesses to buy from!

Whether you own a business or live in East Palo Alto, we need your voice and your help to address these critical issues. There is a lot YOU can do to help strengthen our community.

One thing you can do is to participate in this important conversation. If you own a local business, come share your thoughts about what makes East Palo Alto a great place to do business and what makes it difficult. If you're a resident, come talk about what you wish you could buy locally. ***Buying from local businesses is another way you can help East Palo Alto.***

What: East Palo Alto Small Business Town Hall Meeting

When: Thursday, February 26, 2009 from 5:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Where: East Palo Alto City Hall, Community Room

Agenda

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| 5:30 pm | Registration & Networking Mixer (light refreshments provided) |
| 5:45 | Welcome & Recap of EPA Business Needs Study Results |
| 6:00 | Facilitated discussion <ul style="list-style-type: none">* Feedback and ideas for addressing identified needs* Local business opportunities / priorities for collaboration |
| 7:45 | Summary, next steps, and wrap-up |

Our local small business owners are working hard to provide needed goods and services to our community and jobs for our fellow residents. Renaissance/Start Up is here to help and support their success - and that's why we are continuing to host these public forums to gather information and educate our citizens and elected representatives about the importance of small businesses. Join us!

Sincerely,
Kimberly Carlton, Director
Renaissance/Start Up