

# SBS IN THE NEWS

## Brooklyn Daily Eagle

### Brooklyn Businesses Honored by Small Business Services at Gracie Mansion

By Linda Collins  
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Praised for Investing in City's Economy

Several Brooklyn businesses were among those honored this week at the Department of Small Business Services (SBS) Employer Appreciation Breakfast on Wednesday at Gracie Mansion.

The breakfast event was held to recognize some 200 companies in the city "for investing in New York," according to Mayor Michael Bloomberg and SBS Commissioner Robert Walsh.

Some opened new stores, others invested in training New Yorkers for new jobs and all of them hired New Yorkers — all despite the recession.

The businesses are supported through the city's NYC Business Solutions, a suite of services that helps businesses throughout the five boroughs to start, operate and expand.

In Brooklyn, those in attendance on Wednesday included:

- Ice Stone LLC. In September 2009, the SBS assisted IceStone LLC, a Brooklyn-based manufacturer of durable surfaces made of recycled glass and cement, which is using a \$14,333 Training Funds award, matched by an \$8,190 employer contribution, to train 12 employees in total productive maintenance. The program is projected to result in an average wage increase of 7 percent for all trainees.

- IEH Corporation. SBS also assisted IEH Corporation, a Brooklyn-based designer, manufacturer and distributor of high-performance electronic connectors, with \$64,365 in training funds to train 27 employees in lean manufacturing, Six Sigma, production management and equipment maintenance.

- Arby's. Brooklyn's first Arby's was assisted in recruiting more than 120 people for jobs at the new store that opened in Brooklyn last fall.

- AJ Wright. During the last few months, the SBS also assisted AJ Wright, an apparel and home fashions retailer, in hiring more than 120 people for its first Brooklyn store on Flatbush Avenue.

Not many businesses know that the SBS has a free recruitment service and can assist in training employees. It should also be noted that the agency worked with more than 600 businesses last year.

"Thank you to all the businesses that have committed to helping our city grow by investing in training and getting New Yorkers back to work," said Walsh. "We encourage businesses to take advantage of the array of cost-free services offered through NYC Business Solutions, whether they need to find new employees, train their current staff or expand. New York City is a unique blend of diverse industries and talented people — and our support is instrumental in helping everyone succeed."

Last year, SBS's NYC Business Solutions team worked with more than 600 businesses across the five boroughs and helped place more than 25,000 New Yorkers in jobs.