



Media Advisory

PHILADELPHIA DISTRICT OFFICE

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SBA officials recognize Lackawanna County for SBA Fee Waiver Program to promote economy, jobs *August 2nd event precedes noon Courthouse Square Concert*

SCRANTON, PA – SBA officials will gather with the Lackawanna County Commissioners to recognize the county's innovative SBA Fee Waiver Program August 2nd at 11:30 a.m. **The event is open to media and the public, who are also invited to stay for the County Courthouse Square Concert at noon on the Linden Street stage.**

WHO: Tony Leta, SBA Capital Access Deputy Associate Administrator (former Wilkes-Barre Branch Manager)
Natalia Olson-Urtecho, SBA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator
David Dickson, U.S. SBA Philadelphia District Director
Robert Maximovicz, U.S. SBA Wilkes-Barre Branch Manager
Corey D. O'Brien, Jim Wansacz, Patrick M. O'Malley, Lackawanna Co. Commissioners
Michael Ednock, Keystone Veal (\$26,250 county fee waiver on \$1 million SBA loan)
Elizabeth Keiper, Freckles and Frills Day Care (\$12,054 county fee waiver on \$950,523 SBA loan)
Nicholas Elmy, Elmy Detailing In Motion (\$102 county fee waiver on \$13,600 SBA loan)
Gary McDonough, Twisted Turtle, LLC (\$3,937.50 county fee waiver on \$175,000 SBA loan)

WHAT: Event recognizing Lackawanna Co. for its SBA Fee Waiver Program to spur local economic growth

WHEN: Friday, August 2nd at 11:30 a.m.

WHERE: Linden St. Stage (near Lackawanna Co. Courthouse, Scranton, PA 18503)

"This is a very entrepreneurial approach to attracting business and jobs that the county has taken," said SBA District Director David Dickson, responsible for the 40 eastern counties of Pennsylvania. "Lackawanna County is leading the way with this very unique and innovative way to stimulate local economic development – it's unlike anything else I've seen in the nation."

Eastern Pennsylvania Lackawanna County began its Small Business Administration Loan Fee Waiver Program Jan. 1 to promote economic development, spur local economic growth, and encourage the private

sector to create family-sustaining jobs in Lackawanna County. The County allocated funds from its \$1.25

million economic development budget line item for the SBA program to assist in the projects of qualified businesses working with a qualified lender.

"The community has witnessed an increase in SBA loan transactions," Commissioner Wansacz said. "The program has helped to create jobs, diversify our economy and generate revenue for the community-at-large. We are committed to promoting private sector growth for the area, and the waiver program has been very helpful in accomplishing this goal."

"This is all about creating and retaining jobs. This program helps to address our long-term, higher-than-average, unemployment rate," Commissioner O'Brien said. "The waiver program offers a great way to diversify our economy by supporting the retention and growth initiatives of our local business community."

“We want to help businesses prosper because if they do everyone benefits. We need jobs here and this is a step towards attracting new opportunities,” Commissioner O’Malley said.

For questions concerning Lackawanna County’s SBA Fee Waiver Program, contact George Kelly, Director of Economic Development, at (570) 963-6830. To request interviews or photos, contact Robert Goza, SBA’s Public Information Officer in the Philadelphia District Office, at 610-382-3084 or robert.goza@sba.gov.

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