

Business Issues

Free S.C.O.R.E. Workshops

The BID Council is offering Business Improvement District members free workshops on a variety of topics. The workshops are provided through a partnership with S.C.O.R.E. (Senior Core of Retired Executives) and the BID Council. The seminars usually cost \$75 to \$150 and are geared to help businesses in many ways. Workshop topics include:

- *Writing a Winning Business Plan*
- *ABCs of Selling*
- *Internet Marketing*
- *Marketing, Advertising and Branding*
- *Quickbooks*
- *Where's the Money?*

To get a better idea what the workshops cover, the S.C.O.R.E. website is www.score-sandiego.org or you can call 619-557-7272. There is a limited amount of spaces, so please contact us at the Boulevard office if you want to take advantage of this great opportunity.

Lower Taxes and the ADA

Did you know that there are tax advantages for businesses that comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act? Businesses with 30 or fewer employees or total revenues of \$1,000,000 or less may use a credit of up to \$5,000 a year to offset costs of altering facilities, using interpreters or taking other steps to improve accessibility for customers or employees with disabilities. All businesses, whatever their size, can take a deduction of up to \$15,000 each year for the cost of removing barriers in facilities or vehicles. The credit can be used to cover a variety of expenditures, including:

- *Removal of architectural barriers in facilities or vehicles (alterations must comply with applicable accessibility standards)*
- *Provision of readers for customers or employees with visual disabilities*
- *Provision of sign language interpreters*
- *Purchase of adaptive equipment*
- *Production of accessible formats of printed materials (i.e., Braille, large print, audio tape, computer diskette)*
- *Fees for consulting services (under certain circumstances)*

Note that the credit cannot be used for the costs of new construction. It can be used only for adaptations to existing facilities that are required to comply with the ADA.

The amount of the tax credit is equal to 50% of the eligible access expenditures in a year, up to a maximum expenditure of \$10,250. There is no credit for the first \$250 of expenditures. The maximum tax credit, therefore, is \$5,000.

You can learn about the ADA and these tax incentives at the ADA Business Connection Website at www.ada.gov/business.htm or by contacting the ADA Information Line at 800-514-0301 (voice), 800-514-0383 (TTY).

Parking Meter Cards Available at RTC

All parking meters now accept special meter cards, something very handy with the new, higher rates. The cards can be purchased at face value in various denominations. Simply insert the card and purchase time. The most appealing feature, other than not needing a pocket full of quarters, is that you can get the unused time put back onto the card, meaning you no longer have to guess at the time you will be using, nor donate the unused time to the City. The new Regional Transportation Center at El Cajon Blvd. and Interstate 15 has agreed to sell and refill the cards for us. The RTC is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.



Helpful Numbers for Business Owners

San Diego City/County

Police	531-2000
City Information	236-5555
Tax Assessor	236-3771
SD Unified School District	725-8000
Nuisance & Noise	236-5500
Graffiti Hotline	(800) 829-6884
Animal Control	236-4250
Fire Prevention	533-4400
Recycling Center	533-5353
City Heights Library	641-6100
North Park Library	533-3972
Kensington Library	533-3974
University Heights Library	692-4912

Utilities

SDG&E	(800) 611-7343
Water & Sewer	515-3500
Cox Communications	262-1122

Helpful Numbers

UPS	(800) 742-5877
US Post Office Info	(800) 275-8777
Legal Aid Society	262-0896

Small Business Permits

Development Services	446-5300
Fire	446-5151
Development & Permit Info	446-5000
Inspection Requests	(858) 581-7111
County of SD Health Dept.	338-2222
City of SD Police Licensing	531-2250
City Business License	615-1500
Office of Small Business	685-1390
State Contractors License	(800) 321-2752

The Boulevard

El Cajon Boulevard Business Improvement Association 283-3608

3727 El Cajon Boulevard
San Diego, CA 92105

Web: www.theboulevard.org

Financial Resources

City of SD Storefront Improvement Program
685-1390

Provides matching grants to small business and building owners for storefront improvements.

CDC Small Business Finance 231-3594

Provides low-interest financial support to small businesses through the US. Small Business Administration loans and loan guarantees.

Uptown Micro Loan Program 299-4060

This \$2 million loan program provides loans up to \$25,000 for businesses located within the City's 19 Business Improvement Districts.

California Southern Small Business Development Corporation- State of California Loan Guarantee Program

232-7771

Provides loan guarantees for businesses unable to qualify for conventional financing.

Accion/San Diego 685-1380

Provides loan guarantees for businesses unable to qualify for conventional financing.

San Diego Regional Revolving Loan Fund
533-7502

Administered through the Community and Economic Development Department, the \$3 million loan fund provides revolving loans to small businesses to supplement private financing of new or rehabilitated buildings, fixed machinery and equipment, working capital and soft costs.