On behalf of the Birmingham City Council, Councilor Lashunda Scales will host an Economic Development Summit April 26 – 27, 2013 at the BJCC – East Exhibition Halls 2 & 3.

The Annual Neighborhood – Small Business Economic Development Summit will convene on Friday, April 26, 2013, 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m., and on Saturday, April 27, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Free and open to the public, the Summit is designed to assist small business owners and persons wishing to start a business. Registration is not required.

Speakers and moderators will include:

- Geri Albright (Moderator) -- PR Director, Lawson State Community College
- Marquelon Sigler (Moderator) -- Birmingham Junior League
- Hezekiah Jackson, IV (Moderator) -- Metro Birmingham NAACP
- Gary Richardson (Moderator) -- WJLD 1400 AM Radio Station
- James Bailey -- Operation HOPE -- Atlanta CEO -- Business & Personal Finance Best Practices
- Lisa Blair -- Director -- Government Services Group -- "Strategic Leveraging of Grant Dollars for Public/Private partnerships"
- Michael Brooks -- Associate Director -- University of Alabama Small Business Development Office - Import & Export Opportunities for Entrepreneurs
- Victor Brown -- VP Economic Development -- Birmingham Business Alliance-- "Blueprint for Small Business Growth in Birmingham"
- Jeff Traywick -- Economic Development Associate -- Birmingham Business Alliance (Co -Presenter with Victor Brown)
- Dr. Mia Cowan -- Owner -- MiBella Health & Wellness--Health & Wellness Industry Entrepreneurs
- Patrick Grayson -- Social Media Director -- Alabama African American Chamber of Commerce--Leveraging Social Media to Increase Business
- Octavia Kuransky -- Program Director -- Central Alabama Women's Business Center -- "…and now a word from Donald Trump"
- Chris Lewis -- Executive Director -- Southern Region Diversity Minority Supplier Council --Does Your Businesses Need Minority Certifications?
- Dallas Teague Snider -- Founder & CEO -- Purpose Without Limits--Business Etiquette for Entrepreneurs
- Tonya Speed -- Executive Director -- Mid Tier Advocacy Group -- Learn what it takes for your mid-tier firm to compete with large businesses and what Congress is doing to help
- Martin Weinberg -- Attorney -- Alabama Justice Defender Group --BP Oil Spill Compensation Claims for Alabama Small Businesses
- Ty West -- Senior Editor -- Birmingham Business Journal --Economic Outlook for Local Entrepreneurs
- Brandon Wilson -- President -- Wilbron Institute -- Tips for Smart Business Growth
- Eric Calhoun -- Community Affairs Director -- Brown Law Firm LLC--BP Oil Spill Compensation Claims for Alabama Small Businesses
- Jarvis Escott -- President & CEO -- First Impressions Marketing--Marketing Your Business Via The Internet in 2013
- Attorney Leigh Forstman -- Pittman, Hooks Law Firm--Empowering Women in Business
- Hollis Wormsby -- Program Manager -- HUD -- Strategies for Neighborhood Revitalization

- Buddy Palmer -- President & CEO -- Birmingham Cultural Alliance -- Impact of The Arts on the Local Economy
- David Flemming -- President & CEO--REV Birmingham -- REV Birmingham Support & Outlook on Local Business Potential
- Terry Brown -- President -- Forge 104 -- Business Communications

For more information, contact the office of Councilor Lashunda Scales at 254.2349 or 854.8595 (cell).