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## More than 400 Turn Out for PHL Business Opportunity Forum

*Presentations on diversity initiatives, tips for firms new to the Airport, and a focus on the future of information technology at PHL*

**PHILADELPHIA** – Mayor Jim Kenney was among the speakers who addressed more than 400 attendees at the Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) Annual Business Opportunity Forum today at the Airport Marriott Hotel. The participants included representatives of large firms and small businesses, and minority-owned and disadvantaged business enterprises and organizations that provide services to businesses both small and large. The event was the first among the City’s upcoming Minority Enterprise Development (MED) Week activities.

Participants in the Forum heard about PHL’s growing list of small business initiatives, new procurement methods, and the results of attracting new firms. For the first time at the event, the Airport provided its vision for information technology and identified several upcoming projects that are underway or in the pipeline. PHL executives and regional and local business leaders were on hand for networking and responding to individual questions.

“Philadelphia International Airport is a cornerstone of the regional economy, contributing more than \$15.4 billion annually in economic activity,” said Mayor Kenney. “This Forum plays an integral role in the Airport’s approach to supporting the region’s diverse business community. It’s one-stop shopping where entrepreneurs can tap into the many opportunities at PHL and become part of the Airport’s vibrant business community.”

In addition to Mayor Kenney, speakers included Airport CEO Chellie Cameron, U.S. Rep. Dwight Evans, City Councilman Kenyatta Johnson and Lola Harper, Deputy Commerce Director for the City’s Office of Economic Opportunity as well as members of the PHL executive staff and business partners.

“The opportunities for businesses of all sizes at a major airport like ours are substantial and diverse,” Cameron said. “This Forum is ideal for businesses and individuals to learn about PHL’s capital improvement projects and business diversity programs. It is exciting for the Airport to present new initiatives as we work to increase the number and diversity of our partners.”