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Michelle Banks-Spearman
Chairperson
August 12, 2009
For immediate release

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Business Plan Competition Provides Funding For Eco-Urban Entrepreneurs

CAMDEN – As part of its Haddon Avenue commercial corridor Green Initiative, Parkside Business & Community In Partnership, Inc., announces its Equity Capital Competition, which will award funding to entrepreneurs with a viable business plan for Parkside’s new eco-urban business corridor.

The contest runs through January 31 and offers up to \$30,000 to entrepreneurs locating on Haddon Avenue. Special consideration will be given to eco-friendly businesses, particularly (but not limited to) a restaurant with sustainable practices. Applicants will be judged on factors including managerial ability, outlook for the business and its industry, and public benefit and social justice features, as well as eco-friendly and sustainable business features. Competition winners will also be eligible for additional support such as rent subsidy, business support services and building improvement funding.

The purpose of the contest is to attract sustainable and community-based businesses to the Haddon Avenue corridor in Parkside. The equity capital fund is one component of the neighborhood’s Commercial Revitalization plan. This fall, PBCIP will host a Storefront Stroll to showcase available retail properties to prospective business owners and outline in detail the revitalization plans.

The section of Haddon Avenue connecting Collingswood and Center City Camden presents a unique opportunity to build a model eco-urban, sustainable neighborhood business corridor. As part of a comprehensive commercial redevelopment effort, PBCIP has several programs under the [Green Initiative](#) umbrella that are both environmentally friendly and meet the needs of neighborhood residents (i.e. – jobs, appropriate retail goods, etc.)

Other green initiatives include a [Green LEED Certified retail/office building](#) on Haddon Avenue, the [Youth Public Arts initiative](#), and a [building improvement program](#).

PBCIP is a community development corporation working in the Parkside neighborhood of Camden. The organization’s mission is to uplift the neighborhood through commercial revitalization, financial literacy, housing rehab and quality of life initiatives that include advocacy for quality education, jobs and job training, public safety and more.

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It's A New Day in Parkside.