



# City of Seat Pleasant

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Congresswoman Donna Edwards Joined Mayor Eugene W. Grant Bringing the Small Business Listening Tour to The City of Seat Pleasant**

**Seat Pleasant, MD** - On August 21st Congresswoman **Donna F. Edwards** visited local businesses in her congressional district including The City of Seat Pleasant: A City of Excellence, in her annual Small Business Listening Tour to find out ways small municipalities can grow their local businesses and expand their customer base. Mayor **Eugene W. Grant** set up visits to several local businesses in the area including Seward's Unisex Barbershop owned by **Mary Seward**, Discount Mart owned by **Stephen Franco**, Keith and Sons owned by **Keith Lan**, and Go Mobile Plus which was also expanded into Go Tags, a Tag and Title store where folks could skip the MVA and get their tags renewed, where **Latasha Ward** is the store's Manager and **Greg Hall** is the owner.

The major topic of discussion at every visit is bringing more businesses and opportunities for small business owners into the area. Since The City of Seat Pleasant lies in a corridor that has been deemed a Transit Oriented Development area along Central Avenue where the Addison Road Metro is just across the street from these businesses, the possibility for assistance or increased funding is there. Mayor **Grant** urged Congresswoman **Edwards** to support policies that allow for direct funding for municipalities to offer loans for expansion and business development to business owners through either the Small Business Administration or the U.S. Chamber of Commerce.



***Caption:** Congresswoman Donna F. Edwards enjoys a bowl of soup and talks with Seat Pleasant Mayor Eugene W. Grant and Keith Lan, Owner of **Keith & Sons**, a local soul food restaurant, about small business needs during her August 21, 2012 Small Business Listening Tour in The City of Seat Pleasant: A City of Excellence.*

The Congresswoman was open to the ideas and listened carefully to each store owner, offering her continued support in Congress and not forgetting the people she represents. "Small municipalities throughout the 4th Congressional District, such as the City of Seat Pleasant, are great places to live and open a business," said Congresswoman **Donna F. Edwards**. "There is a close-knit, community feeling here and I want to do all I can at the federal level to bring in support and funding opportunities into areas like this one, areas that are too often being overlooked." Stated Congresswoman **Edwards**.

The Congresswoman stopped in, sat down for a conversation and bought a plate of some fried fish, soup and cornbread at Keith and Sons. Mayor **Grant** pointed out "You know how Washington DC has their celebrity soul food eateries that have been around for a while, well I want to make Keith and Sons the next soul food hot spot, a legendary place known for its tremendous cuisine and make this Maryland's celebrity soul food restaurant."

By the end of the hour and a half tour of local businesses, Congresswoman **Edwards** had a good handle on where The City of Seat Pleasant: A City of Excellence stood on bringing in more federal dollars to the municipal level. And her appreciation for the hospitality of all the store owners and Mayor **Eugene W. Grant** was very visible. "Since taking office I have brought fourteen new businesses into the City and I plan to bring in more. We were honored to host Congresswoman **Edwards'** appearance and we know she will take our concerns back to Capitol Hill and fight for our small business owners in Congress, Representative **Donna F. Edwards** is a down to earth elected official who never forgot who elected her and the people in her district she works for and we were delighted to host her in Seat Pleasant today," added Mayor **Grant**.

It is also important to point out that in July of 2012 the Central Avenue-Metro Blue Line Corridor [Sustainable Community](#) was announced by the Maryland Department of Housing and Community Development and Prince George's County listed 3 municipalities: Seat Pleasant, Fairmount Heights, and Capitol Heights, who all collaborated with Prince George's County to develop a plan that will revitalize the area surrounding the eastern end of the Washington Metro Region's Blue Line. The communities seek to create a sense of place in their region, spotlight historic and cultural landmarks, and attract commercial investment. They are planning to concentrate development around Metro stations to decrease reliance on cars and improve access to jobs in other regions.

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**Seat Pleasant: "A City of Excellence"** is one of Maryland's 157 municipalities with a population of 4,582 residents, 100 businesses, 13 houses of faith, and 20 non-profit organizations. The Seat Pleasant Government has a Mayor, seven member City Council and 35 government employees operating a \$3.8 Million dollar budget.

**Eugene W. Grant** is currently serving his 8th year as mayor of Seat Pleasant: A City of Excellence. During his 8 years as mayor, he has successfully tripled the size of the Police Department, reduced crime by 33%, improved the infrastructure of the city, ended each year with a surplus and raised thousands of dollars for the local elementary school. Mayor Grant serves as the Chairman of the Board for Health Empowerment Network of Maryland, Inc., President of the Maryland Black Mayor's Community Development Corporation, Inc., Chief Executive Officer for Global Development Services for Youth, Inc., and a member of numerous other organizations both domestically and internationally. You can follow Mayor Grant on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

