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PRESS RELEASE

City and CRA partner with National Entrepreneur Center to assist small businesses in Winter Park

WINTER PARK, FL, an internationally recognized, award winning city with multiple accredited agencies (September 22, 2023) The City of Winter Park and the [Community Redevelopment Agency \(CRA\)](#) is proud to announce its partnership with the [National Entrepreneur Center \(NEC\)](#) and launch of the new [Winter Park Business Academy \(WPBA\)](#). The WPBA is open to all businesses in Winter Park city limits and will offer free resources, workshops and individualized business coaching to assist with starting or growing a business.

Those with existing or aspirational small businesses are invited to the inaugural interactive WPBA session, **Tuesday, October 10**, from **5:30 to 7 p.m.**, at the **Winter Park Events Center** located at **1050 W. Morse Blvd.** Entrepreneurs will learn about the WPBA and all the free resources that will be available through the academy to assist in making their business successful. Registration for the workshop is recommended and can be accessed at BizLinkOrange.com/WinterPark. The event is free and light refreshments will be provided.

In celebration of the NEC's 20th Anniversary, this new partnership furthers their mission to develop and grow small businesses. Although housed at the Orlando Fashion Square Mall, the creation of the WPBA delivers the valuable NEC resources right to Winter Park.

"We understand the importance of closely aligning NEC services with the vision and goals of all our funding partners. Specifically, in Winter Park, we'll work to complement and grow the existing business support services currently offered. Together we will take our expression of 'Collaborative Impact' to another level," said NEC President Belinda Ortiz Kirkegard.

"The creation of the WPBA brings to life specific areas of the CRA Plan and city's Economic Development Advisory Board's Strategic Plan that focuses on expansion of businesses and also the development of small, entrepreneurial, minority and home-based businesses," shared Assistant Division Director of Economic Development/CRA Kyle Dudgeon. "To have the resources offered by the [NEC](#) and the expertise of skilled program managers of [BizLink Orange](#), [Central Florida International Trade Office](#) teams and [Score Orlando](#) is a win-win-win for our community."

For more information regarding the WPBA or to sign up for the Academy, please access BizLinkOrange.com/WinterPark.

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