



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: *November 22, 2022*

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**HUDSON COUNTY & VALLEY NATIONAL BANK ANNOUNCE
PARTNERSHIP TO ASSIST SMALL CONTRACTORS AT WORK ON
MAJOR COUNTY PROJECT**

Small businesses at work on courthouse assisted with financing/cash flow issues.

Jersey City, New Jersey — Hudson County Executive Tom DeGise proudly announced a new partnership between the County Office of Business Opportunity and Valley National Bank to offer small business financing to small, minority, women and veteran owned businesses assisting in the construction of the Honorable Frank J. Guarini Justice Complex.

Recognizing that small and minority contractors may need short-term financial assistance to manage their cash flow on a large public construction job, the leadership of the Hudson County OBO and Valley's Small Business Lending Team proactively developed solutions for this unique cohort of businesses.

"We are pleased to work with Valley National Bank to address the needs of small, minority, women and veteran-owned businesses hard at work building the Justice Complex," said County Executive DeGise. "This is the largest construction project

undertaken by the County, one that we were determined to build with a focus on inclusion. Valley is helping us do just that.”

Under this new program, small, minority, women and veteran-owned businesses doing work on Justice Complex can qualify for lines of credit with Valley National Bank as they work on the courthouse and also take advantage of financing solutions for capital needs.

“The collaboration between The Hudson County Office of Business Opportunity and Valley Bank fosters the financial opportunities that empowers small business enterprises and minority-owned businesses by creating a positive community business network of support and resources,” said Dhana Miele, Valley National Bank’s Market Manager for Hudson County.

“Our goal is simple at the Office of Business Opportunity—equip the local businesses we serve with the tools they need to succeed,” said HCOBO Director Markis Abraham. “Those tools include networking support, professional development, and assisting in getting access to financing, like this outstanding new partnership with Valley provides.”

Valley National Bank is a regional bank with approximately \$54 billion in assets. Valley is committed to giving people and businesses the power to succeed. It operates convenient branch locations and commercial banking offices throughout New Jersey, New York, Florida, Alabama, California, and Illinois. It is committed to providing the most convenient service, the latest innovations and an experienced and knowledgeable team dedicated to meeting customer needs. Helping communities grow and prosper is the heart of Valley’s corporate citizenship philosophy. To learn more about Valley, go to www.valley.com or call: 800-522-4100.

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