



GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP

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NEWS RELEASE

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GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP HOSTS STATE OF CYBERSECURITY PANEL AND LUNCHEON

HOUSTON – Greater Houston Partnership (GHP) hosted the State of Cybersecurity panel and luncheon on November 1. Umesh Verma, Chair of GHP's Cybersecurity Task Force and CEO of Blue Lance said "In this era of reliance on electronic data and information systems within a globally-connected economy, cybersecurity is a key security concern for businesses and people."

The task force, established earlier this year, has identified a critical need for improving basic awareness, protection and infrastructure, particularly for small to mid-sized businesses. The event was designed to provide businesses of all sizes with insights into general cybersecurity strategies along with sector-specific tactics. Geared towards the C-suite, business owners, and information technology professionals, the event provided clear and concise steps on how to safeguard information and quickly recover if compromised. GHP also unveiled a Cybersecurity Report, *Cybersecurity and Business Vitality*, that is available as a free download at Houston.org/cybersecurity.

GHP Chairman, David McClanahan said "Cybersecurity is often discussed as a global issue; but it is important to understand its local business implications." Several local community leaders also shared their insights, including Mayor Annise Parker and Sheriff Adrian Garcia. The event concluded with a panel discussion featuring members of the task force and was moderated by Dr. Ellen Ochoa, Director, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center. Panelists included: Phil Beckett, PhD, Chief Technology Officer, Greater Houston Healthconnect; Bart W. Huffman, Partner, Locke Lord LLP, Austin; Jason Ritchie, Operations Officer, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas, Houston Branch; Adnan Amjad, Partner, Deloitte; Andre Allen, Chief Information Security Officer, City of Houston; Kamran Khan, Rice University; Rashi Bates, General Manager, Shell WindEnergy, Inc. and Andy Sawyer, Director of Security, Locke Lord.

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Greater Houston Partnership is Houston's leading business organization dedicated to making Houston a great place to live, work and build a business. It represents 10 counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto and Waller. With more than 2,000 Member organizations, GHP represents approximately one-fifth of the region's work force. Visit GHP at houston.org.