



*SBA Richmond District Director Ron Bew and Mayor L. Douglas Wilder of the City of Richmond execute S.A.M*

## **SBA and the City of Richmond Join Forces to Promote Entrepreneurship in Virginia**

A new economic development and business development partnership agreement between SBA's Richmond District Office and the City of Richmond Office of Minority Business Development was ratified recently at a special signing ceremony.

A common mission joins the organizations; helping start, maintain, and expand small businesses. Formalizing the partnership with the signing of a Strategic Agreement Memorandum (S.A.M.) will allow both organizations to synergize their business assistance and economic development efforts. "We want to expand prosperity to everyone in Virginia," Bew said. "Our organizations have separate services and resources which, when delivered in coordination with each other, provide a greater benefit to Virginia's small business community. We are excited about working with Mayor Wilder and the Department of Minority Business Development to achieve this goal."

"Richmond is becoming a more attractive place for people of all nationalities," Mayor Wilder said. "It is in the City's best interest to do what we can to make sure those who are striving for the American Dream have the opportunity to achieve it. This partnership will help facilitate those dreams for many."

The goal of the Alliance is to develop a closer working relationship between the organizations to further strengthen and expand small, emerging and minority business opportunities in the City of Richmond.