



Approved Sep 20, 2011

**WEATHERIZATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday August 23, 2011**

The Weatherization committee convened on Tuesday August 23, 2011 at City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street in the Executive Session Room, # 1027 in Austin, Texas.

Chair, Andy Ramirez called the Board Meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:
Andy Ramirez and Barbara Boeta**

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the May 3, 2011 meetings were approved by a motion by Chair Andy Ramirez and second by Ms. Barbara Boeta. March 15, 2011 and July 19, 2011 meeting minutes were postponed due to Mr. Brian Walters not present at this meeting.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

There were no citizens signed up to speak.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion regarding the Austin Energy Weatherization project and potential recommendations to the Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) & Small Business Procurement Program Advisory Committee regarding minority participation.

Mr. Fred Yebra, Austin Energy (AE) presented the June and July 2011 ARRA Weatherization Contractors-Cumulative File Distribution report and reviewed with the committee.

Citizen Communication is summarized below;

Ms. Carol Hadnot, Austin Area Black Contractors Association (ABCA) expressed concerns of MBE utilization specifically for African-American Subcontractors on the Weatherization project. She stated that the program was not a complete success and failed subcontractors who invested dollars, equipment, materials and education to become certified but work was not distributed fairly and resulted in lay-offs of workforce. Ms. Hadnot also requested an independent audit of the programs processes.

Ms. Alayne Johnson, Austin Area Black Contractors Association (ABCA) and All Points Inspection expressed concerns that the over all goal of the Weatherization program was not met. She also requested SMBR impose sanctions on Primes who did not meet ethnic specific goals on the project as well as implementation of goal changes for additional funds received for on-going projects.

Veronica Lara, Director Small & Minority Business Resources (SMBR) stated that a letter of concern had been sent to Prime contractors in question and responses received stated they will provide opportunities as they come up. Also Ms. Lara stated that a violation would be imposed on any Prime contractor who has not met the project goals at the end of the project (Close-out).

Mr. Ramirez requested Ms. Hadnot (ABCA), Ms. Johnson (ABCA and All Points Inspection) and one of his staff provide recommendations to Fred Yebra of AE to build capacity for subcontractors and provide

prime contracting opportunities to subcontractors for future projects. Recommendations would be presented to Council.

Mr. Fred Yebra stated that Austin Energy welcomes any input to improve future programs.

4. STAFF REPORTS

Debra Dibble, Assistant Director SMBR reviewed the MBE/WBE Participation report with the committee.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

Austin Energy ARRA Weatherization Subcontractor Monthly Assignment Summary Report

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair, Andy Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 5:39p.m.