



Approved 1/23/2012

**WEATHERIZATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**SPECIAL CALLED MEETING
Tuesday January 3, 2012**

The Weatherization committee convened on Tuesday, January 3, 2012 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 4:02 p.m.

Board Members in Attendance:

Andy Ramirez, Brian Walters and Barbra Boeta

1. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Ms. Carol Hadnot, program Austin Area Black Contractors Association (ABCA) expressed gratitude to the Chair and Committee for work and Austin Energy for finding the \$900,000 in new ARRA grant funds to complete weatherization project that greatly benefits the community and gave job opportunities to contractors.

Mr. Paul Saldana, U.S. Hispanic Contractors Association (USHCA) expressed concerns that questions regarding 15 recommendations being implemented, the issue of prime contractors acting as subcontractors for other primes and primes awarded contracts without Resnet & BPI certification has not being addressed.

Mr. Pete Rivera, ATX Drywall & Painting expressed concerns that they have been under utilized and that the new money be implemented with fair & equitable distribution of work. He also expressed concerns regarding payment and recent prime contractor issues.

Ms. Alayne Johnson, ABCA inquired about issuance of sanctions on old grant money and which City department is monitoring the program.

2. NEW BUSINESS

Updates on the Austin Energy Weatherization contracts with possible recommendations to the Advisory Committee.

Mr. Ramirez thanked the City Manager's office, Rudy Garza, Assistant City Manager (ACM) and Small Minority Business Resources (SMBR) for being directly involved in getting the \$900,000 in grant funds. He also stated that new funds be distributed as equitably as possible, and that there would be significant participation of subcontractor. He expressed concerns regarding calls from subcontractors stating they were told they would not be used moving forward and wants to encourage maximized level of minority participation use by the prime contractors.

Mr. Larry Weiss, General Manager, Austin Energy (AE) briefed the Committee on the new grant dollars that are to be spent by March 31, 2012 and that Chase Apartment Complex has been

added to receive weatherization services. He also stated they will provide a thorough report at contract completion. Mr. Weiss walked through a handout which included memos regarding getting new funding and the Assigned Units and Intended Assignments report.

Mr. Anthony Snipes, Chief of Staff, City of Austin stated as of the first of the year he is now in charge of the Small Business Resources Department (SMBR) and that he and Mr. Weiss will work together to implement ways to see the existing Weatherization program through successfully and improve future programs such as the CAP program out of Austin Energy.

Mr. Fred Yebra, Austin Energy went over the Weatherization process and stated that the majority of the units at Mt. Carmel Apartment complex will receive HVAC installations. He also stated however that some weatherization services such as caulking is considered part of HVAC installation.

Mr. Lino Mendiola, General Counsel, explained SMBR's role under the purview of the MBE/WBE Procurement program. He stated that the Committee may consider implementing a clause for breach of contract based on the prime contractor's written commitment to meet program goals.

Ms. Boeta asked that Committee be involved in the revamp of any new programs at Austin Energy.

Mr. Walters expressed that not only should the Committee be involved in new program discussions but that Austin Energy pay attention to the potential contractors so that all are engaged in the process.

Citizen Communication is summarized below;

Mr. Rolando Osorio, GG Construction expressed concerns that work not being distributed evenly with the new grant funds will continue. He also stated he feels that subcontractors have been disenchanted with program.

Mr. Saldana, USHCA requested a proposed forecast be developed for subcontracting opportunity by Austin Energy with the \$900,000 grant funds.

Ms. Hadnot, ABCA requested a current AE report from Jan Lawson. The last report received was in October 2011. She also requested information regarding certification of Encore Mechanical and expressed that under utilized subcontractors should be selected.

Ms Johnson, ABCA asked for subcontractor verification to ensure that the prime contractors are meeting the goals based on assignments provided on their report.

Mr. Ramirez stated moving forward that if contractors are found to misrepresent to the City their commitments to the program, they can not continue to do business with the City.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair, Andy Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 5:26 p.m.