



**MBE/WBE and Small Business Council Committee
Minutes**

**Regular Meeting
Tuesday, November 8, 2011**

The MBE/WBE and Small Business Council Committee convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, November 8, 2011 at 301 W. 2nd Street Room 1101 in Austin, Texas.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Council Member Martinez, Mayor Pro Tem Cole, Council Member Tovo

1. CALL TO ORDER

Council Member Martinez called the meeting to order at 3:05 p.m

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes from the October 11, 2011 regular meeting were approved on 3-0 vote from a motion by Mayor Pro Tem Cole.

3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

Felix Batchassi, IT Solutions on Demand, discussed an issue his firm had regarding a contract he was working on as a subcontractor (HANDOUT).

The Committee requested that SMBR provide their offices a chronological list of meetings and events that occurred along with a written response by email.

Paul Saldaña, US Hispanic Contractor's Association, discussed items on the November 10, 2011 City Council agenda related to the Weatherization Program. He said the association is not opposing adding more dollars, but wants to remind the Committee of a previous discussion related to recommendations made by the MBE/WBE Advisory Committee's Weatherization Subcommittee and also their concerns regarding historic underutilization of minority subcontractors on the current project.

Carol Hadnot, Austin Area Black Contractors Association, said that at the Weatherization Committee meeting, they were told there would be no additional funding for this project, but now there are agenda items to add funding. She also asked the Council to look deeper into this issue and do something about it because the subs that got certified to do weatherization are not working on the project. She also said Cooperative Purchase contracts need to be examined further because there are firms receiving large contracts without going through the bidding process or including minority participation.

Ms. Lara will follow up with the Committee regarding the time constraints and restrictions placed on the City on cooperative purchase agreements as required by the State.

Alayne Johnson, Austin Area Black Contractors Association, asked for clarification on the dollar amounts being added to the Weatherization project to through the Council Agenda Items.

4. MBE/WBE ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT

Monthly report from the Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) and Small Business Advisory Committee regarding its activities and minority-owned and women-owned business enterprise issues

This item was postponed to the next month's agenda.

5. STAFF REPORT

Monthly report from the Small & Minority Business Resources (SMBR) department regarding request for changes

Veronica Briseño Lara, Director- SMBR, presented the request for change report.

Alayne Johnson, Austin Area Black Contractors Association, asked about the first item on the report, and why there was no GFE required. Ms. Johnson said that the City should consider doing away with the good faith effort requirement.

Ms. Lara explained that it was a like-kind substitution on a DBE project, and GFE was not required.

The committee requested that Ms. Lara bring a report to the next meeting to highlight firms that consistently decrease minority participation by removing subcontractors or substituting them off of the project.

6. AGENDA ITEMS

Update regarding Formula 1 and Haynes, Eaglin, Waters being awarded a contract on the project while serving as the outreach coordinator.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Council Member Martinez adjourned the meeting at 3:55 p.m.