



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

**Regular Meeting  
Tuesday, April 10, 2012**

**The MBE/WBE and Small Business Council Committee convened in a regular meeting on Tuesday, April 10, 2012 at 301 W. 2<sup>nd</sup> Street Room 1101 in Austin, Texas.**

Committee Members in Attendance:  
Council Member Martinez, Council Member Tovo

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Council Member Martinez called the meeting to order at 3:13 p.m

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes from the February 14, 2012 regular meeting were approved on a 2-0 vote on a motion by Council Member Tovo, seconded by Council Member Martinez.

**3. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Carol Hadnot, Austin Area Black Contractors Association said that the Third Party Agreement Resolutoin needs tracking and monitoring. A project that was approved for US Farathane by the full Council and an amendment was made to include the resolution on the project. The information regarding the solicitation was not received by the ABCA, and still has not received any information.

Debra Dibble, Assistant Director, Small & Minority Business Resources Department briefed the committee regarding a meeting held with US Farathane last week. She clarified that Farathane sent out a blanket solicitation and SMBR has asked this in the future. They were also instructed on the requirements of the Third Party Agreement Resolution and will hold them to the requirements through the four phases of the project.

Council Member Martinez requested that information regarding participation numbers on all Third Party Agreement projects be provided to the Advisory Committee.

**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**

Ed Lowenberg, MBE/WBE Advisory Committee Chair, presented an update from the February, March and April meetings, and the March Weatherization Committee meeting held.

**CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Paul Saldaña, Minority Trade Association Alliance, had 3 minutes donated from Andy Ramirez, US Hispanic Contractors Association, discussed the requested increase in funding for the service

provider contracts. He presented a side by side comparison of the Minority Chamber and the Minority Trade Association funding for the last five years. He said that there is a need for an increase in funding for the Minority Trade Associations as they have not seen any increase in the last five years.

Aleta Banks, Asian Contractor Association, Executive Director asked for the Committee's support to increase their funding to adjust for inflation and the cost of living. She also said that the program is limited to only assisting with getting firms certified because of limited funds. She said that the association has relied on many volunteers and their time to keep the organization going. The Asian Contractor Association is requesting an increase from \$45,000 to \$120,000 for the 2013 Fiscal Year.

Carol Hadnot, Austin Area Black Contractors Association, said that the number of certified African American firms has decreased because businesses do not have the ability to build their capacity, and the association does not have enough resources to assist them further. The Austin Area Black Contractors Association is requesting an increase from \$45,000 to \$180,000 for the 2013 Fiscal Year.

Juan Oyervides, US Hispanic Contractors Association, discussed the services the association currently provides, and explained that there are many other services needed by the certified firms, that the current amount of funding does not allow. The association is requesting an increase from \$45,000 to \$223,000.

## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

### **Briefing from the Small & Minority Business Resources (SMBR) department regarding the upcoming disparity study solicitation**

Veronica Briseño Lara, Director, SMBR presented the committee with the solicitation schedule and the recommended scopes of service for the disparity study.

### **CITIZEN COMMUNICATION**

Carol Hadnot, Austin Area Black Contractors Association said that they do concur with the scopes presented. She also said that it is very important that the evaluation committee who is reviewing the RFQs know what they are doing and people who understand MBE/WBE issues and the procurement process to ensure that the right firm is selected.

Council Member Martinez also requested that another parameter to include Veteran owned businesses be considered for inclusion in the disparity study scopes.

## **6. STAFF REPORT**

### **Monthly and requested reports from the Small & Minority Business Resources (SMBR) department regarding request for changes**

Debra Dibble, Assistant Director- SMBR, presented the request for change report.

Council Member Tovo requested additional information on the three request for changes that were not approved.

## **7. AGENDA ITEMS**

- Follow up regarding the legal opinion on non-voting members from the trade associations to serve on the working groups as it relates to a conflict of interest.
- Follow up on the result of the UT contract
- Possibly a discussion regarding adding the Veteran component to the disparity study at a future meeting

## **8. ADJOURNMENT**

Council Member Martinez adjourned the meeting at 4:22 p.m.