

EQUAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

August 03, 2021 Meeting Minutes

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	Meeting held in hybrid format Nancy Briguglio called the meeting to order.	Meeting called to order at 9:06 am
Minutes: June 01, 2021	Nancy Briguglio called for approval of the Minutes. Minutes: Roger Barnes moved that the Minutes be approved, the motion was seconded by Nathaniel Alston.	Unanimously approved
Certifications: June 01, 2021 through August 03, 2021	Roger Barnes moved that the applications be approved; the motion was seconded by Sharon Pinder. Shahan Rizvi mentioned that the certifications should reflect the County demographics as per the recent US Census which reflect a rise in African, Hispanic and Asian American Businesses. He added that outreach needs to be done to the Hispanic community as well. Vernon mentioned that the County has created a Hispanic Roundtable, namely the La Alianza Latina Workgroup. Mahesh added that the Office of Procurement recently presented about the EBO program to this workgroup in May 2021 and subsequently has created flyers in Spanish to target Hispanic businesses. Nancy Briguglio mentioned that the office has taken proactive steps by reaching out to the Hispanic business community.	Unanimously approved
Purchasing Reports	Mahesh presented the Purchasing Report which included annual statistics for FY 2021. Various sections of the report to include: EBO participation, waivers, certification and outreach were discussed. A comparative summary of EBO participation in terms of spend and percentages and on the number of EBO waivers over the past five fiscal years was also presented.	
Member Comments	Shahan mentioned about the latest infrastructure bill and stated that once the money trickles down to the County, EBO firms need to benefit from it for infrastructure projects. Roger Barnes mentioned the infrastructure bill is an opportunity to create more opportunities for minority businesses and advance equity by assisting them with issues such as financing, so they are ready for the projects.	

	<p>Shahan inquired about the handling of such infrastructure projects through the Office of Procurement when the County gets its share of the dollars from the infrastructure bill. Dean mentioned that the Office of Procurement is at the tail end of the process and when for example DPW is planning to do a procurement then it comes to the Office of Procurement at that point.</p> <p>Shahan inquired if the County had a procurement forecast that can be shared with businesses. Dean mentioned that the best place to look for this information is the County’s budget which is available on the County website and includes a listing of capital projects that the County plans for the coming year. Cynthia Gula mentioned that this information about the capital budget can be shared with businesses on where to look for future opportunities at the workshops that the office conducts and participates in.</p> <p>Cynthia Gula mentioned that the Office of Procurement recently won an achievement award from the National Association of Counties (NACO) for ‘Building Vendor Relationships in Difficult Times’ under the Community and Economic Development category.</p>	
Adjournment of Meeting at 9:50 am	<p>Motion to adjourn by Nancy Briguglio.</p> <p>Next regular EBOC Meeting scheduled for October 05, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.</p>	

EBOC MEMBER ATTENDEES:

1. Roger Barnes
2. Nancy Briguglio
3. Cynthia Gula
4. Jason Peay
5. Shahan Rizvi
6. Nathaniel Alston
7. Sharon Pinder

ABSENT:

1. Neil Madan
2. Margaret Kim

NON-MEMBER ATTENDEES:

1. Dean Hof
2. Mahesh Sabnani
3. Constance Tucker
4. Vernon Thompson
5. Darshni Patel