

EQUAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

October 05, 2021 Meeting Minutes

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	Meeting held in hybrid format Nancy Briguglio called the meeting to order.	Meeting called to order at 9:07 am
Greetings & Welcome	<p>The Commission welcomed Lonnie Robbins, Chief Administrative Officer with Howard County Government, who was in attendance.</p> <p>Dean Hof introduced Kantria Branch, a new employee who recently joined the County as an Outreach Program Specialist and will work alongside the Chamber of Commerce and HCEDEA to focus on outreach to local Howard County businesses and growing vendor registrations in the Local Business Initiative.</p> <p>Larry Twelve introduced members of his team from the HCEDEA. Maria Vargas, Director International Business Development and Chris Moyer, Managing Director of Business Development will be attending future EBOC meetings with the recent retirement of Vernon Thompson.</p>	
Minutes: August 03, 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: August 03, 2021 through October 05, 2021	Cynthia Gula moved that the applications be approved; the motion was seconded by Nathaniel Alston. Discussion: Mahesh shared a question that Nathaniel Alston had during his review of one the certification applications. Mr. Alston's opinion on one of the applicants, World Wide Technology was that the	Unanimously approved

	<p>company although a minority owned company did not qualify as a disadvantaged company, since they are one of the largest minority IT company in the country, having annual sales of around 13 billion dollars.</p> <p>However, the County’s EBO Program does not require applicants to provide financial and/or tax records to determine certification eligibility, since the program does not have a cap on personal net worth as well as revenue size standards to determine certification eligibility. Therefore, a firm cannot be denied certification based on these grounds. Some programs such as the MDOT certification under the State of Maryland MBE program do have personal net worth eligibility requirements. Additionally, under the State MBE program, firms graduate out of the program upon exceeding the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) size standards, if their previous three-year revenues or employee count exceeds the SBA size standards based on their industry specific NAICS codes. Since the County’s EBO program does not have such regulations, Mr. Alston was okay with recommending his approval and including the company on the slate for vote by the commission.</p> <p>Sharon Pinder stated that in her experience larger minority firms do build supportive business networks and ecosystems collaborating with smaller minority companies. Nancy Briguglio mentioned that Kantria Branch could help connect local EBO firms with this larger company.</p>	
<p>Purchasing Reports</p>	<p>Mahesh presented the Purchasing Report which included statistics for FY 2022 1st Qtr. Various sections of the report to include: EBO participation, waivers and outreach were discussed.</p>	

Meet the Primes	Mahesh shared the flyer of the upcoming Baltimore Metropolitan Council/Baltimore Regional Cooperative Purchasing Committee (BMC/BRCPC) Regional Minority Outreach Event, Virtual Meet the Primes scheduled on October 13, 2021.	
EBOC Rules of Procedure	Mahesh shared a revised draft copy of the EBOC Rules of Procedures with the commissioners, The Office of Procurement and Contract Administration is proposing to make changes to one paragraph of the document (<i>Paragraph II. A Composition: Meetings</i>), to include verbiage adding an option stating that the EBOC meetings can be held in a virtual or hybrid format in addition to in-person meetings. Cynthia Gula made a suggestion to the sentence structure. Mahesh will incorporate that change. Additionally, references to the ‘Office of Purchasing’ in the document are being changed to reflect ‘Office of Procurement and Contract Administration’. None of the Commissioners had any objections to the proposed changes.	
Member Comments	<p>Nancy Briguglio mentioned that the terms of the current Chair and Vice-Chair will expire at the end of the calendar year and added that Mahesh will be sending an email out to the commissioners requesting nominations for both these positions sometime in November and a vote will be held in the next meeting in December.</p> <p>Cynthia Gula mentioned that the new County website was very user friendly and easy to navigate to find information.</p>	

Adjournment of Meeting at 9:51 am	<p>Motion to adjourn by Nancy Briguglio.</p> <p>Next regular EBOC Meeting scheduled for December 07, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.</p>	
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EBOC MEMBER ATTENDEES:

1. Roger Barnes
2. Nancy Briguglio
3. Cynthia Gula
4. Shahan Rizvi
5. Nathaniel Alston
6. Sharon Pinder
7. Margaret Kim
8. Neil Madan

ABSENT:

1. Jason Peay

NON-MEMBER ATTENDEES:

1. Lonnie Robbins
2. Dean Hof
3. Mahesh Sabnani
4. Constance Tucker
5. Katria Branch
6. Larry Twelve
7. Maria Angelica Vargas
8. Christopher Moyer