

EQUAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

November 17, 2016

AGENDA ITEM

DISCUSSION

ACTION

	Nathaniel Alston called the meeting to order.	Meeting called to order at 10:37 a.m.
Minutes: August 02, 2016	<p>Nathaniel Alston called for approval of the Minutes. Steven Joss moved that the Minutes be approved; the motion was seconded by Nancy Briguglio.</p> <p>Discussion: Steven Joss had inquired about the ownership makeup of one of the firms; Melville Thomas Architects, Inc. in the previous meeting. Mahesh mentioned that the firm was a 100% woman-owned business as stated in their application and that they hold certifications with MDOT and the City of Baltimore as a WBE.</p>	Unanimously approved
Certifications: August 02, 2016 through November 17, 2016	Steven Joss moved that the applications be approved; the motion was seconded by Nancy Briguglio.	Unanimously approved
Purchasing Reports	<p>Discussions (Purchasing Report)</p> <p>Mahesh presented the Purchasing Report which included statistics for the 1st Quarter of FY 2017. Various sections of the report to include: EBO participation, waivers, certification and outreach were discussed.</p> <p>Mr. Barnes mentioned that he would like to see more Howard County firms certified in the EBO Program. Steven Joss mentioned that it was nice to see that firms from outside the County and State were also getting certified in the EBO program. He added that not all Howard County firms may be interested in providing goods and services to the County.</p> <p>Roger Barnes discussed whether there was a possibility to increase the 10% EBO goal or mandate it. The commissioners discussed this further. Darla mentioned that the County had never done a disparity study and any changes will have to be done as an outcome of a formal disparity study. Mahesh mentioned that a disparity study is used to establish whether or not underutilization of minority and women-owned firms exists in the purchasing practices of an entity, and that a study would give a legal predicate for making changes to a program. Constance Tucker explained that the EBO program is a voluntary supplier diversity program. She reminded the Commissioners that a disparity study would have to be done to make the EBO requirement mandatory and, that such</p>	

	<p>studies are quiet expensive. Darla reminded the Commission that any changes made to the EBO program would have to be approved by the County Council.</p> <p>County Council Proposed Resolution Pertaining to the EBOC (Handout): A handout of the proposed resolution was given to the commissioners. Roger Barnes mentioned that he supported the legislation. Constance mentioned that we already do a lot of this in terms of tracking EBO numbers. Darla mentioned that the commissioners could email her and Mahesh any comments they had about the proposed resolution. Mr. Alston mentioned that he had contacted Dr. Ball’s office and would be attending the public hearing. He also encouraged other commissioners to attend the public hearing.</p> <p>EBOC Retreat: Nathaniel Alston and Nancy Briguglio shared information about an EBOC Retreat being planned. Nancy encouraged commissioners to share any inputs or topics they wanted to be added to the agenda.</p>	
Adjournment of Meeting at 11:10 am	Motion to adjourn by Nathaniel Alston; seconded by Steven Joss. Next regular EBOC Meeting scheduled for February 07, 2017 at 9:00 a.m.	

EBOC MEMBER ATTENDEES:

1. Nathaniel Alston
2. Nancy Briguglio
3. Matthew Lee
4. Steven Joss
5. Margaret Kim (conference call)
6. Jason Peay (conference call)
7. Roger Barnes (conference call)

ABSENT:

8. Barry Curtis
9. Tajuddin Sabree
10. Shahan Rizvi

NON-MEMBER ATTENDEES:

1. Mahesh Sabnani
2. Darla Herbold
3. Constance Tucker (conference call)

ABSENT:

1. Robin Fewell