

EQUAL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

February 04, 2020 Meeting Minutes

ITEM	DISCUSSION	ACTION
	Nancy Briguglio called the meeting to order.	Meeting called to order at 9:05 a.m.
Minutes: December 18, 2019	Nancy Briguglio called for approval of the Minutes. Roger Barnes moved that the Minutes be approved; the motion was seconded by Sharon Pinder.	Unanimously approved
Certifications: December 18, 2019 through February 04, 2020	Cynthia Gula moved that the applications be approved; the motion was seconded by Roger Barnes.	Unanimously approved
Purchasing Reports	<p>Mahesh presented the Purchasing Report which included statistics for the 2nd Quarter of FY 2020.</p> <p>Discussions (Purchasing Report)</p> <p>Various sections of the report to include: EBO participation, waivers, certification and outreach were discussed.</p> <p>In reference to the Waiver report, some of the discussions included firms that had initially submitted a request for full waivers which were converted into partial waivers after assistance from the Office of Purchasing, and a firm that had submitted a subcontractor that was a small business and not an EBO certified business and how such participation was not counted towards the EBO program.</p>	
Member Comments	<p>Nancy Briguglio provided information on a presentation she did for the Leadership Howard County Class of 2020. During a segment of hot topics presentation, she provided information on the EBO program.</p> <p>Sharon Pinder shared information with Mahesh about the CRMSDC 2020 Super Matchmaker Conference, scheduled for Thursday, March 26, 2020. This is one of the EBO outreach events the Office of Purchasing participates in annually.</p>	

	<p>Mahesh introduced Janssen Evelyn, Assistant Chief Administrative Officer for Howard County to the commissioners. Janssen reiterated the County’s commitment to grow the participation with local and EBO firms, and mentioned that one way we are doing this is by pushing and encouraging user agencies to utilize local and EBO firms as much as possible for smaller purchases.</p> <p>Janssen and Dean provided information on upcoming events planned for outreach to Local and EBO firms. The Office of Purchasing will be hosting an Information Technology Outreach Event on March 5, 2020 which will be followed up with a Construction & Paving Local Business Outreach Event scheduled on March 19, 2020. Dean mentioned that these two sectors are where there is a large spend that happens translating to opportunities for Local and EBO firms. The Office of Purchasing will also be hosting a Meet the Primes Networking event on April 16, 2020.</p> <p>Mr. Alston mentioned that he frequently meets with a group of businesses that do not fall into either category, neither Information technology nor the Construction industry. So how do firms such as accounting firms benefit. Dean added that the Meet the Primes event was for all types of businesses.</p> <p>Roger Barnes brought up the discussion about the EBO goal being an aspirational goal. He added that the County needs to look at the possibility of conducting a Disparity Study. The County has never done a disparity study and any changes will have to be done as an outcome of a formal disparity study. Constance mentioned that implementation of the EBO program must be in a way that it stands legal sufficiency if challenged, referring the supreme court case law.</p>	
Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA)	<p>Howard County Economic Development Authority (HCEDA):</p> <p>Vernon Thompson mentioned that the EDA will be having its Business Appreciation Week during the first week of June 2020.</p>	
Adjournment of Meeting at 9:55 am	<p>Motion to adjourn by Nathaniel Alston.</p> <p>Next regular EBOC Meeting scheduled for April 07, 2020 at 9:00 a.m.</p>	

EBOC MEMBER ATTENDEES:

1. Roger Barnes
2. Nathaniel Alston
3. Nancy Briguglio
4. Cynthia Gula
5. Margaret Kim
6. Sharon Pinder (conference call)
7. Neil Madan (conference call)
8. Jason Peay (conference call)

ABSENT:

1. Shahan Rizvi

NON-MEMBER ATTENDEES:

1. Janssen Evelyn
2. Dean Hof
3. Mahesh Sabnani
4. Constance Tucker
5. Vernon Thompson (HCEDA)