



FINAL

**THE CITY OF MIRAMAR
BUSINESS, INCLUSION & DIVERSITY
CONSTRUCTION & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

MARCH 12, 2024

1:00 P.M.

A meeting of the City of Miramar's Economic Development & Housing (EDH) Department's Business, Inclusion & Diversity (BID) Construction & Professional Services Advisory Board took place at 1:25 p.m. on Tuesday, March 12, 2024, 2nd floor conference room, room W-202E in the Economic Development & Housing Department, 2200 Civic Center Place, Miramar, FL 33023.

1 & 2 CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE

The following board members were present:

Chairperson Dorothy Brown-Alfaro, Owner, Jador International Corp.
Vice Chairperson Vernon Williams, VP, Brigcon Construction Services
Mac Alabre, CEO, Lien Library Inc.; FIU (Remotely)
Garrie Harris, CEO, Alpha 1 Staffing
Robert Washington, Jr., Instructor, Carpenters & Pile Drivers Union

The following board members were absent:

Denise Brown, President, DPX Construction Management
Priscilla Diaz
Vernon Dooling, Membership Coordinator, Minority Builders Coalition
Colette Holt, City Diversity Consultant, Ex-officio

A quorum was achieved.

Other persons present:

Jordan Gary, City Attorney
Paul Njoroge, Business Analyst Manager
Dr. Karen Hollis, B.I.D. Liaison

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- **Meeting minutes of January 9, 2024**

Deferred to the next meeting.

4. CONTRACTOR CONFLICT UPDATE (Vernon Williams)

Vice Chairperson Williams stated after the previous meeting he discussed the PPP program with a contractor he was involved with doing a bid; shortly after the meeting, the contractor called to say they were reconsidering a bid they already awarded to another company, as they wished to issue the bid to him. Since then he successfully executed the contract. He questioned how he could receive information on other Miramar small business contractors if he wished to speak with them to learn if they were interested.

Dr. Hollis asked Mr. Williams if he was looking for persons to join his team, or did he wish to find out if the contractor was working to secure the full five-percent if contracting with Mr. Williams was still insufficient to achieve the five-percent.

Vice Chairperson Williams felt sure his contract did not allow the contractor to achieve the five-percent, so he wanted to know if there were small businesses in Miramar involved in areas such as landscaping, etc. They might not be aware of the subject project, and he could speak to them, and encourage them to bid.

Dr. Hollis said she provided the contractor with the names of other small businesses involved in the scopes of work needed; the contractor was already working on reaching out to those businesses.

5. LEGISLATIVE BILLS: SB 742 UPDATE

Both SB 742 and HB 705 were reviewed in one discussion.

6. LEGISLATIVE BILLS: HB 705 UPDATE

Chairperson Brown-Alfaro remarked SB 742 passed in the various committees, but changes were made in the language of HB 705, so the bills did not mimic each other; they had to be the same on both floors. SB 742 was amended in the Senate, and the both SB 742 and HB 705 passed. Broward County was in the process of determining how to handle these bills, as the responsible wages and benefits aspect would disappear; the opinion was that all small businesses in construction using responsible wages and benefits were unions, which was not the case. She said the presenters failed to do due diligence, and, as such, the

facts were not represented properly on either case, despite an overwhelming number of persons speaking out against both bills. Ms. Brown-Alfaro mentioned sending an email many people the previous night, including those in Dade and Broward Counties, and as far as Hillsboro County, asking everyone to email Governor DeSantis to veto the bills, which passed by an overwhelming majority. She noted for the record that small businesses were, generally, nonresponsive in such situations, whether showing up in person, or sending emails; some senators told her they received four emails despite the thousands of small businesses that would be affected. Allegedly, these bills were supposed to protect goods and services, which they did not when countering bills were passed. She urged everyone to vote in local, state, and federal elections; business owners might not wish to get involve in politics, but politics could close their doors. Ms. Brown-Alfaro mentioned trying to get at least 200 small businesses to show up and protest, and they failed to get anywhere near that number.

Dr. Hollis noted, recently, a petition was sent via an email on another matter asking individuals to sign into the email, asking if Ms. Brown-Alfaro considered garnering support this way; sometimes it was difficult for business owners to show up physically.

Chairperson Brown-Alfaro understood it could be difficult for small business owners to show up; emails were sent out to Miami businesses with the names and contact details for senate and house representatives; business owners just had to click on the link; yet, this failed. Years prior they tried to do a petition, but it had to be in hard copy with original signatures, and with businesses varying in size, many did not have staffing to run the business in their absence. She said some business owners were complacent, not believing anything would happen; in 2023 there was a significant turnout that led to the bills being stopped; this was not the case for 2024. After the bill passed on March 4th, she received numerous phone calls asking what transpired, and when she asked if they communicated with their state elected officials, most said they had not. She advised them to send in emails, etc. requesting their elected officials veto the bills.

Dr. Hollis mentioned recently seeing a petition allowing people to vote electronically; she would email Ms. Brown-Alfaro the information.

7. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Historic Miramar Tech Village Roadway Improvements PA

Dr. Hollis said she shared with the board whenever her department had significant project authorization forms; a project authorization was released by the Engineering Department to the tune of \$2,500,000.00 for the Historic Miramar Technology Village Roadway Improvements. The City was exploring seeking an

alternative organization capable of identifying ready, willing, and able qualified firms to, potentially, participate, including proposing a minority goal participation.

Dr. Hollis indicated that one company provided the City with the following: goal-setting recommendations of 25 percent based on the number of available firms; a total of 232 firms based on the breakdown she provided them as to scope: highway, street, roadway specialty, electrical, HVAC, etc. They provided an outline of the number of firms in each industry identified in the tri-county metropolitan areas, and they recommended the City set a goal 25 percent for the project. She noted they went further with the engagement of the small businesses, contacting them to see if they were, in fact, available, and willing to bid; they received feedback and insights for the needed services; they engaged with a total of 940 firms.

Mr. Washington asked if they used the City's database first before going regional.

Mr. Njoroge replied they reviewed data from all sources at the same time, as they had to provide information on the number of businesses that were local, etc.

Mr. Washington wished to know if there was a specific goal for Miramar.

Dr. Hollis answered the City does not have a specific goal. The recommended 25 percent includes local, small, and minority businesses.

Chairperson Brown-Alfaro surmised the company would submit a proposal, and, if they won, the City would replace its B2G with their software, and their company's products.

Mr. Njoroge answered yes.

Dr. Hollis stated the Procurement Department notified that they qualify as a sole source because of their individuality, so they would not have to go through the full process.

Chairperson Brown-Alfaro asked if when the City qualified a sole source vendor, staff did due diligence to ensure there were no other qualified, smaller firms.

Mr. Njoroge replied just because the company was certified as a sole source, this did not mean it was the direction the City would go in.

Dr. Hollis affirmed the due diligence was done, and it would be noticed. The Procurement Department had a process in place when, and if individuals were considered; they had to meet all qualifications to be considered.

2. Women's History Month Flyer

Dr. Hollis said March was Women's History Month; the national theme for 2024 was "Women who advocate for equity, diversity, and inclusion." She showed the board a flyer detailing the BID Program's celebration of businesswomen in the tri-county area; the flyer would be released in support of the trailblazing advocates.

a. BID M/WBE Certification Workshop: April 25, 2024

BID would be hosting a certification workshop on Thursday, April 25, 2024, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. in the Commission Chambers; attendance could be both in person and virtually to maximize local businesses attendance. The goal was to educate businesses on the economic impact of certification; show how certified businesses had a competitive edge; show business credibility could be improved through certification; and how it could provide access to more contracting opportunities. She said they would learn about required documentation various agencies needed to be attached before they could be certified, and the benefit they would get from individual certifications. The certifying agencies invited were: Miami-Dade County Public Schools; Florida State Minority Supplier Development Council; Broward County Public Schools; the Office of Economic & Small Business Development; the City of West Palm Beach; and the School District of Palm Beach County. The City of Miramar is not a certifying agency but accepted the certification of all six invited agencies.

8. ANNOUNCEMENTS & INFORMATION

1. Miramar/Pembroke Pines Chamber of Commerce's 18th Annual Sip of Wine, A Taste of Heaven: March 15, 2024, 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. at the Miramar Regional Amphitheater

Dr. Hollis said board members interested in attending should contact staff at the ED&H Department to get two free tickets for a guest and themselves. There was a \$10.00 cash-only parking allotted for the event.

Chairperson Brown-Alfaro stated she called the Chamber to reserve two tickets, and the representative informed her that she would have to pay \$80.00 for the second ticket.

Mr. Njoroge suggested Ms. Brown-Alfaro secure her tickets through the City.

2. Vice Mayor Alexandra P. Davis would host a Volunteer Appreciation Awards Dinner on Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at the Miramar Cultural Center banquet hall.

Dr. Hollis invited board members to attend, as they, too, were volunteers; they could register to attend by scanning the QR code on the invitation; they should RSVP by April 4, 2024, and the dress code was business casual. Vice Mayor Davis wished to express her sincere appreciation to residents and business owners who volunteered their time in support of the City, as an organization, in its numerous efforts.

Chairperson Brown-Alfaro thanked the City, and staff for all they did for small businesses; commending Dr. Hollis for being an amazing advocate. She hoped to see better board attendance at the next meeting; without a quorum, the board could not vote on any items.

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Next meeting: Tuesday, April 9, 2024, @ 1:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.



Dorothy Brown-Alfaro, Chairperson
DB/cp