

MBE Advisory Committee Conference Call July 28, 2010

Participants:

Ruth Byrd-Smith – Allegheny County M/W/DBE Department
Amy Griser – Allegheny County Department of Budget and Finance
Joyce Query – I2, Inc.
Toni Silva – UPMC
Will Thompkins – NAACP Pittsburgh Branch, for M. Gayle Moss

Absent:

Dennis Davin – Allegheny County Department of Economic Development
Victor Diaz – Pittsburgh Metropolitan Area Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Mark Patrick Flaherty – Office of the Allegheny County Controller
Kenneth Huston – Huston Trust, Inc.
Timothy Johnson – Allegheny County Department of Administrative Services
Abass Kamara – Pittsburgh Penguins
Marc Little – MWELA
Iftikhar Malik – Shawn Malik, Inc.
M. Gayle Moss – NAACP Pittsburgh Branch
Joseph Olczak – Allegheny County Department of Public Works
Im Sook Reinhart – Controls Link, Inc.
Tim Stevens – B-PEP

This conference call was scheduled so that the MBE Advisory Committee could discuss the July 6th informational meeting hosted by County Councilmen Rich Fitzgerald and William Robinson. The key issues raised at the meeting were:

- No Chair had been selected;
- The progress reports mentioned in the revised legislation do not necessarily refer to contracting statistics;
- The M/W/DBE Department staff is not necessarily the MBE Advisory Committee staff.

After much discussion, the Committee members participating in the conference call asked the M/W/DBE Department to poll the Committee as to each member's eligibility to serve as Chair and desire to serve as Chair or Vice Chair. It was agreed that a period of seven days would be allotted for Committee members to submit this information to the M/W/DBE Department. Amy Griser will inquire as to how other advisory committees handle infrastructure issues and the amount of time that is involved in chairing a committee. In the meantime, the M/W/DBE Department will schedule another conference call for August 5th to follow up on the questionnaires.

Ruth Byrd-Smith noted that she consulted with the County's Law Department and it is the Law Department's opinion that the MBE Advisory Committee is not subject to the Sunshine Act because it is not a policy-making body.

In closing, the Committee asked that the minutes from this conference call be forwarded to Councilmen Fitzgerald and Robinson in addition to all Committee members.