

MBE Advisory Committee Conference Call October 25, 2010

Participants:

Kristy Kwisnek – Allegheny County M/W/DBE Department
M. Gayle Moss – NAACP Pittsburgh Branch
Joyce Query – I2, Inc.
Tim Stevens – B-PEP

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
Amy Griser – Allegheny County Department of Budget and Finance
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.
Joseph Olczak – Allegheny County Department of Public Works
Im Sook Reinhart – Controls Link, Inc.
Toni Silva – UPMC

M. Gayle Moss explained that the purpose of this conference call was to come to a decision on asking County Council for a disparity study, and to start putting together a written request before Council decides upon the budget for 2011. The vote on the budget will be in December, but the Committee would need to submit their request sometime in November. Joyce Query thought that the Committee should move forward with their request even if it is not submitted in time for the 2011 budget because she strongly feels that a study needs to be done. She also wondered if some of the funding could be contributed from the foundation community and/or the City of Pittsburgh. Ms. Moss referenced the information that Ruth Byrd-Smith gathered regarding a potential disparity study:

- The estimated price range is \$250,000 to \$500,000;
- It would take approximately one year to complete;
- It would need to examine the entire M/WBE program, not just WBEs.

Ms. Query felt that the Committee should vote on whether to pursue requesting a disparity study of Council. Tim Stevens asked when the request would need to be submitted. After reviewing the minutes from the last conference call, Ms. Moss stated that Amy Griser offered during the last conference call to inquire about the due date and pass it along, but advised the Committee to use November 11th in the meantime. Mr. Stevens thought that the Committee should clarify the due date and what will be asked

for, then send it to Council. Ms. Moss asked how soon a voting ballot could be sent to the Committee, and Kristy Kwisnek replied that she could send it out today.

Ms. Moss began to outline the content that would be included in the ballot, then made reference to a comment Ms. Query had made before the conference call started that Phillippe Petite would like to see a disparity study done for Allegheny County and the City of Pittsburgh jointly. Recent demographics that Ms. Query researched put the County's current minority population at 18.1%, which she felt would influence the MBE percentage. Ms. Moss added that the MBE percentage would reflect the types of businesses as well. Mr. Stevens stated that areas with no or few MBEs/WBEs could influence the outcome of the disparity study. Ms. Query asked Mr. Petite for a copy of the City's last study, which was conducted in 2000, and he is having one printed for her. Ms. Moss felt that some of that information should be included in the Committee's voting ballot. Ms. Query offered to go to Mr. Petite's office and read through the study, thinking that she might be able to obtain the information in a more timely manner. She went on to say that the City's disparity study results suggested 25% MBE and 10% WBE goals, but the City reduced the goals to 18/7 to make them more defensible in court.

After viewing the City's disparity study, Ms. Query will draft the request and forward it to Ms. Moss to review. Mr. Stevens wondered if it would be prudent to present the Committee's disparity study request to Councilman Bill Robinson for his input so the request can be worded in a way that Council would find favorable. Ms. Moss offered to do that since she already extended an invitation to Councilman Robinson to attend the next Committee meeting.

To recap the course of action that will be taken:

- Ms. Query will review the City's disparity study, make note of pertinent information and draft the request to Council;
- Ms. Moss will present the draft request to Councilman Robinson for his input;
- The draft request will be sent to the MBE Advisory Committee so the Committee can vote on it, allowing a one-week period of time to respond. The M/W/DBE Department will distribute the request and collect the responses.