

Draft

**Minutes
Minority Business Ad-Hoc Committee
January 13, 2015**

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rachael Parker; Chairman, Don Gorman, Denise Moore; City Council, Mary Ardapple; Board Member, Charles Randle; Business Financial Services-Small Business Administration

MEMBERS ABSENT: Mike Phelan, Board Member, Brandon Holmes; LISC, Marty Helfers, Marty Clinch; Illinois Department of Transportation; Stephanie Brock, Diane Russell

OTHERS PRESENT:

Larry Ivory; Illinois Black Chamber, Mike George; Consultant, Mark Rothert; Assistant County Administrator

Teleconference: David Cayemitte, Liz Duncan; The Cayemitte Group

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Parker at 4:05pm. Approval of November 11, 2014 minutes was postponed due to a lack of a quorum. Mr. Rothert gave an update on the MCI program year-to-date expenses, 2015 projected expenses, a status report of the current bond-readiness participants and a schedule of past and upcoming classes. He mentioned that collaboration continues with Greater Peoria Sanitary District for mowing services the District wishes to procure in the near future with the possibility of utilizing contractors in the MCI program.

The meeting was opened to teleconference attendees to give an update on the MCI program. Ms. Duncan gave an overview of December 2014 activity as follows:

- A total of 8 people attended the Bond Class held in Peoria December 12th. An online link where classes can be found has been sent to other individuals.
- A personalized WIP (*work-in-progress*) schedule has been created for each contractor in the program.
- A presentation on WIP is being prepared for January 8, 2015.

Mr. Cayemitte reported as follows:

- He has been working with TCG staff to continue to meet one-on-one with participants to address issues related to cash flow, low credit scores, tax liens, bonding, MBE certifications and other requirements necessary to qualify for IDOT and CMS projects, etc.
- He continues to develop and build the portal.

Mr. Ivory reported as follows:

- He has been working with a credit specialist who possesses expertise in credit restoration that would be beneficial to the program participants.
- Revisions have been made to the master list for general services.
- He continues to work with TCG and MBDI to track incoming applications and businesses that are completing applications and submitting commitment letters for the program.
- He has been in contact with 14 other businesses that are interested in the program.
- Phone calls and meetings are ongoing with contractors to assess their needs and evaluate their information.
- He continues to review and outline additional marketing plans, i.e. public speaking, utilizing input from leaders of other organizations.
- Topics are being sought for additional workshops that will be beneficial to the program.

Mr. Ivory mentioned other activities and events that would be available to program participants at no charge. He also mentioned a meeting he had with IDOT personnel to discuss mentoring as well as available state funds. Mr. Randle asked if the new Governor's administration would have a

negative impact on Mr. Ivory's effort of pursuing funds for this program. Mr. Ivory did not think it would. Furthermore, Mr. Ivory emphasized the importance of being proactive and developing a work plan for the CDI program to present to the Capital Development Board and IDOT. He said it is a good time to talk with these state agencies about District 4 deficiencies. Therefore, he recommended a meeting be set on January 27th at IDOT. He invited Mr. Rothert and also said he would reach out to Bradley University marketing students for their assistance to help develop the Plan.

Mr. Mike George gave historical information collected by IDOT on minority contractors' participation on Illinois Interstate 74 remodeling during and after the project was completed.

Ms. Ardapple stressed the importance of the CDI program being self-sustaining. She recommended that a brief statement be made to the state legislators during the City/County Legislative Breakfast about the need for funding to support this community initiative.

Ms. Parker mentioned the work of the Black Business Alliance (BBA) and thought it would be a good idea for them to attend a MBE Committee meeting to discuss what they do; and to also invite the Black Chamber. Ms. Ardapple agreed and suggested that the groups come to February meeting. Also, she thought it would be advantageous for the MBE Committee to meet jointly with the City to discuss the strategies and paths of each entity relative to community initiatives such as the one the MBE Committee is undertaking.

Minority Business Ad-Hoc Committee members commended the Cayemitte Group and Illinois Black Chamber for the progress they have made with the CDI program. There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:15pm.

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