



**MINORITY, WOMEN & EVANSTON BUSINESS ENTERPRISE
(M/W/EBE)
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**
Wednesday, January 18, 2023
6:00 P.M.
Meeting Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmember Bobby Burns, Councilmember Kristian Harris, Councilmember Devon Reid, Jared Davis, Angela Pennisi, Ernest Noy, Kemone Hendricks, Bonaventure Fandohan, Michael McLean

MEMBERS ABSENT:

STAFF PRESENT: Hitesh Desai, Chief Financial Officer/Treasurer; Tammi Nunez, Purchasing Manager; John Gonzalez, Purchasing Specialist; Mari Johnson, Assistant City Attorney; Nathan Norman, Workforce Development Coordinator

GUEST: Safaya Fawzi, National League of Cities; Aina Gutierrez, Rebuilding Exchange

PRESIDING MEMBER: Councilmember Devon Reid

1. Declaration of a Quorum

With a quorum present, Councilmember Reid called the meeting to order.

2. Approval of Minutes

A. Approval of November 16, 2022 Minutes

Councilmember Burns motioned to approve the November 16, 2022, minutes and the spelling name correction for "Jerad Jared Davis." Seconded by Councilmember Harris. All voted in favor of approving minutes unanimously.

3. Guest Introduction

A. Safaya Fawzi, National League of Cities, Program Manager for the Center for City Solutions.

B. Aina Gutierrez, Rebuilding Exchange, Executive Director.

4. Old Business

A. Amend City Code 1-17-1

Councilmember Reid motioned to approve the Amendment of City Code 1-17-1, Councilmember Harris approved, seconded by Ernest Noy. All voted in favor of unanimously.

Councilmember Reid motioned to approve the Amended City Code 1-17-1 to move forward to city council. Moved by councilmember Harris and seconded by Jared Davis. All voted in favor of unanimously. (Angela Pennisi absent for vote)

B. MWEBE Committee 2023 Workplan

Each group provided an update for each assigned goal and their recommended strategies and objectives.

Goal #1: Position Evanston's MWEBE Committee as a leader in MWEBE advocacy in Evanston.

J. Davis asked if the city was still offering Procurement 101. Due to Covid, this class has not been held but that there should be a way for the program to work with developers to come in and help train some of the workforce. J. Davis also stated it would be advantageous to work with the SBA and all the entities we deal with.

Goal #2: Increase local firms that provide goods and services the city needs.

F. Bonaventure and Councilmember Harris shared that their goal is to increase local firms that provide goods and services and is looked at from two standpoints. They are looking at demand of services and the supply of services. They realize there is no clear assessment where the city can present to those who are interested in knowing what kind of services the city needs.

Goal #3: Increase local contractors that work as general contractors and subcontractors on major projects in Evanston.

E. Noy. and M. Mclean shared that there are some challenges that need to be addressed and have identified including the lack of formerly qualified and/or certified contractors which reside in Evanston; no centralized system to keep an active list of qualified contractors; limited access to a viable training/education program for those interested in forming or growing a small business.

5. Staff Reports

A. Workforce Update: N. Norman shared an update about the work force development and the 2023 budget which expanded to include two new staff support and a part time staff member. N. Norman also shared an update regarding the ASPIRE Program which has had 33 internships, provided 40 career opportunities for Evanston residents and fifteen thousand dollars in scholarships through Oakton Community College. A internal apprenticeship opportunity with facilities maintenance is also in the works as well a collaboration or some acknowledgment with UL Research Institution.

B. M/W/EBE and LEP Tracking Report: T. Nunez shared updates for the MWEBE and LEP Tracking Report. The last update to the 2022 MWEBE Goal Complaint report occurred in October, 2022 and included:

- Bid 22-56 Sewer Inspection, 24-inch Diameter and Larger, \$50,914.80. Awarded to Sheridan Plumbing & Sewer, Inc. who is WBE and received 100% credit for participation.
- RFP 22-44 Utility Bill Print and Mail Services, \$139,050.00. Awarded to Standard Printing Company, Incorporate, dba Information Outsource who is MBE and received 100% credit for participation.

For FY2022, the city exceeded the 25% MWEBE goal with 28.03%. The year ended with 28 minority firms, 22 woman firms, 12 Evanston firms and 1 disadvantaged firm.

For the 2022 MWEBE Goal Waived report, there were two projects added and included:

- RFP 21-39 Customer Relationship Management Software for \$84,400.00. Awarded to QScend Technologies, Inc. (Waterbury, CT). Compliance was waived because the project precludes subcontracting opportunities, based on proprietary software.
- RFP 22-57 Management and Operation of Three Self-Park Facilities for \$578,506.00. Awarded to SP+ Municipal Services (Chicago, IL). Compliance was waived because the services opportunity for subcontracting does not exist due to the revised scope of services.
- The year-to-date MWEBE Goal Waived is \$3,863,667.12.
- The year-to-date LEP Balance is \$77,596.75

6. New Business

A. National League of Cities City Inclusive Entrepreneurship Program:

Program Manager Safaya Fawzi from the National League of Cities shared key details regarding her agency and the collaboration with the City of Evanston. S. Fawzi shared that her agency is essentially an association of cities with its headquarters in Washington DC. Their primary constituents are city council members, elected officials and they work closely with city managers and department city staff. S. Fawzi works with City Inclusive Entrepreneurship which includes an opportunity to apply for a \$15,000 grant through the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. The grant advanced a particular goal related to inclusive entrepreneurship. The City of Evanston has selected to participate in the Anchor Procurement Commitment, in which the city is committing to increasing supplier diversity through equitable anchor, procurement strategies. The program works with a program expert, which focuses on Equitable Anchor Procurement within a cohort.

B. Demolition or Deconstruction RFP project APW 1/23/23 Agenda item:

Aina Gutierrez was invited by the committee to share details about the Rebuilding Exchange and the intent of the city to use building trade projects as training opportunities but how they are unable to participate due to the prevailing wage requirements. The cost of deconstruction versus demolition and the cost of training under prevailing wage is cost prohibitive. Rebuilding Exchange pays minimum

wage and are unable to pay prevailing wage due to students being low income and receiving SNAP benefits, which they would lose if paid prevailing wage for a single project. Aina G. stated her intent in speaking with the city council is for the city to allow Workforce Development in on prevailing wage projects and how bids are rated for projects like this with environmental sustainability of waste diversion, reduction of air pollution and workforce development as part of the scoring metric. Aina G. also stated that there should be a similar intent for workforce development and environmental sustainability similar to how there is for MWEBE. Mari Johnson, Assistant City Attorney (ACA), outlined prevailing wage including what the key terms and the prevailing wage act is; what they mean and how they relate to not-for-profit entities. ACA Johnson stated the circuit courts have found that not-for-profits entities who engage in public works or receive public funds are deemed as public bodies so they would be subject to the Prevailing Wage Act. Also, we would need to look into how we could potentially interact with individuals who are in training. Those in training may not have the same titles as those who are doing the type of projects or actions that we need for demolition projects. Aina G. stated her question would be less about how nonprofits interact with prevailing wage and more about the requirements of prevailing wage on these types of projects and do they have to be in the procurement process, and she is curious about exemptions and when is prevailing wage required. ACA Johnson stated it would be helpful to speak with Aina G. offline to get more information. ACA Johnson also stated as procurement goes, the City of Evanston as a government using taxpayer funds, as well as the state are subject to the Prevailing Wage Act.

C. Report of State of IL Concerning Revenue Public Act 102-0265

Assistant City Attorney Johnson provided details regarding the Revenue Public Act 102-0265. Per Assistant City Attorney Johnson, 35 ILCS 200/18-50.2 has been revised but still mandates that Home Rule and Non-Home Rule municipalities make a good faith effort to collect and publish data such as whether vendors or subcontractor are minority owned, woman owned, or veteran owned. It is not required for the municipalities to dig further into the larger classifications. There is no case law that defines whether or not the city is precluded from doing so or whether its encouraged. The only thing we must ask is whether the vendor/subcontractor is minority owned. The legal department suggests that if the city is interested in asking specific racial classification, they not make it a requirement and stick to the very specific definitions as they are outlined by the Business Enterprise for Minorities, Women, and Persons with Disabilities Act, which is where the racial definitions are.

7. Other Business

None

8. Adjournment

Councilmember Reid motioned the meeting be adjourned, motion carried unanimously. Meeting ended at 8:03 P.M.