

**MINORITY, WOMEN, DISADVANTAGED & EVANSTON BUSINESS ENTERPRISE  
(M/W/D/EBE)  
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 18, 2024  
6:00 P.M.  
Meeting Minutes

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Councilmember Bobby Burns, Councilmember Kristian Harris (Virtual), Bonaventure Fandohan, Kemone Hendricks, Angela Pennisi, Rachel Williams, and Ernest Noy

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Councilmember Devon Reid, Jared Davis, and Michael McLean

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tammi Nunez, Purchasing Manager; Hitesh Desai, CFO/Treasurer, Lara Biggs, City Engineer, Joseph Fields, Workforce Development Manager, and Jessica Cooper, Workforce Development Coordinator

**GUEST:** Mayor Daniel Biss, Councilmember Alder Claire Kelly, Jeremy Esparza, Tyrone Gibbs, John Gallagher, Jeff Boarini, Alex Harrison, Tyrone Gibbs, and Jeff Hirsch

**PRESIDING MEMBER:** Councilmember Bobby Burns

**1. Declaration of a Quorum**

With a quorum present, Councilmember (CM) Burns called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

A. Pennisi motioned to approve the minutes for July 17, 2024. Seconded by E. Noy. Motion passed, and all voted in favor of approving the minutes.

**3. Public Comments**

Des Plaines Staff Cole: Shared experience with RBO in Des Plaines, emphasizing the importance of ensuring contractors have the necessary qualifications and workforce to safely and effectively complete projects.

John Gallagher: Advocated for RBO in Evanston, highlighting the benefits of using experienced contractors and providing opportunities for small startups.

Tyrone Gibbs: Stressed the need for union representation and proper training, particularly OSHA 30-hour training, to ensure safety and quality in construction projects.

Introduction of new workforce development manager Joe Fields and discussion of his role. Thanked Jessica Cooper for her service and work as interim workforce development manager.

**4. Old Business**

A. Responsive Bidder Ordinance (RBO)

Pennisi made a motion to move the RBO for discussion. The motion was seconded by K. Hendricks. The meeting focused on discussing the (RBO), covering various requirements

such as apprenticeship programs, prevailing wage compliance, OSHA safety standards, and subcontractor qualifications. Concerns were raised about the potential impact on small and local businesses, particularly regarding union signatory requirements and the administrative burden of additional documentation. The committee plans to gather more information on union requirements and other cities' implementations of RBOs before making final recommendations to the city council.

**Concerns Raised by the Committee and Next Steps:**

Concerns were raised about the potential impact on small and local businesses, particularly regarding union signatory requirements the administrative burden of additional documentation, and pre-qualification of contractors.

The committee plans to gather more information on union requirements and other cities' implementations of RBOs, research the impact of RBO on small and local businesses, and explore partnerships with non-profits for apprenticeship programs before making final recommendations to the city council.

**Action Items:**

Jeremy was asked to provide a digital version of the LA County RBO document; share the requirements for becoming a signatory to a union; and investigate other cities with RBOs and their implementation processes.

Staff will distribute a digital version of the LA County RBO document to the committee; including requirements for becoming a signatory to a union with the committee; and coordinate with Jeremy to gather information on other cities with RBOs. Staff will also provide additional feedback on the potential impacts of the RBO on local businesses; explore partnerships with local non-profits for apprenticeship programs; and follow up with other cities that have RBOs to understand their implementation and any carve-outs or exclusions they use.

CM Burns will prepare draft recommendations based on the committee's discussions for the next meeting.

**5. New Business**

No new business was introduced.

**6. Staff Reports**

No Staff Report was given and held until the next meeting.

**7. Other Business**

None

**8. Adjournment**

Lost a quorum at 7:05 PM.

Councilmember Burns ended the meeting at 8:45 PM.