



Florida Advisory Council on Small and Minority Business Development

MEETING MINUTES

March 5, 2014

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions:

Chair Gonzalez welcomed everyone to the meeting.

IN ATTENDANCE: Cheryl Gonzalez, **Chair** - (University of North Florida), Wendy Grey (Wendy Grey Land Use Planning LLC), Barbara Rhodes Melvin (Wells Fargo Bank), Malik Ali (FMSDC), Jay Narang (GDKN Corporation), Carlos Rodriguez Maverick Constructors, Inc.), Pamela Hart Frazier (Palm Beach County) and Augusto Sanabria (Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida). Also in attendance was the Office of Supplier Diversity Staff – Denise Wright-Administrative Assistant who recorded the minutes.

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Anne-Marie Richards (Office Depot), Rhett Frisbie (Department of Lottery), Samuel Newby (PepsiCo.), George Owen (Independent Consultant), Dale Coxwell (Coastal Steel, Inc.), Christine McMillon (Ensync Diversified Management Services), Ben Harris (City of Tallahassee), and James Sanders (Nationwide Insurance Company).

Agenda Modification/Adoption: Ms. Melvin moved to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Narang. The agenda was accepted and approved by the Council.

Adoption of Minutes from the February 5, 2014 Meeting: Mr. Narang moved to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Melvin. The minutes were accepted and approved by the Council.

Council Chair Update: Cheryl Gonzalez, Diversity Officer, University of North Florida

- Ms. Gonzalez announced that on March 27, 2014, there will be a Regional MatchMaker in Jacksonville at the University of North Florida. She stated a couple of local businesses will be asked to provide refreshments for the event for the morning break and hopefully they will be able to find someone to provide a complimentary lunch so the attendees won't have to leave for lunch which causes us to lose people.
- Ms. Gonzalez stated she has been meeting with the City of Jacksonville's Economic Development Department as the Advisory Council's Chair, regarding a small business initiative and the Small and Emerging Business Program. She said still the Council is not known throughout Florida and she asked the members to do all they can do statewide to get people to know about the Council and its work.
- Ms. Gonzalez stated The Florida Coalition for Microenterprise Development under Karen Landry, has printed about 200 Annual Reports for free. Also, she told the Council if they would like to have copies for special distribution or if they want a letter to be mailed to anyone on their behalf, to contact her through Ms. Wright. Ms. Gonzalez asked Ms. Wright to inquire on the Council's behalf for the DMS Communications Department to develop electronic Advisory Council letterhead and design a business card template for members to use to purchase business cards as they conduct Council business.
- Ms. Gonzalez added that information received at the last meeting of the Legislative and Policy Committee indicated that the DSO is languishing. She stated that it is interesting how something so dynamic and with no budget is not getting traction for small businesses. She asked, "Who would want to appear to not support the 92% of all businesses in the state of Florida?"

Committee Reports and Actions Requiring Votes (As Applicable) (20 Minutes):

- **Legislation and Policy Committee – Jay Narang.** Mr. Narang stated back in September, the Committee received an update from Ms. Williams and Ms. Stanfield of DMS Legislative Affairs Office. He said they felt very confident the Council would be successful in getting the DSO presented to the Legislators and at that time they had received the “ok” from the Governor’s Office. They mentioned there were other agenda items they wanted to put forth for the Legislators to consider from DMS but they were turned down by the Governor’s Office but stated they were happy the DSO was getting the go-ahead. Mr. Narang said Ms. Williams and Ms. Stanfield felt confident they would find a State Representative who would be willing to sponsor for the DSO Legislation. However, Mr. Narang stated the meeting that took place last month reflected in their update that the DSO was not to be, it was not going forward and they could not find a sponsor.
- Ms. Gonzalez asked Mr. Narang if he could take the lead on the Legislative and Policy Committee. She also stated that if no one could take the lead, it will have to be the task of the Executive Committee and different members will be responsible for different parts of the work.
- Ms. Frazier asked if the Council had a fact sheet on the DSO. Ms. Gonzalez stated she will provide bullets and get it to the Council.
- **State Comprehensive Planning Committee – Wendy Grey.** Ms. Grey stated she incorporated the comments from the last meeting when the report was approved by the Council. The Chair provided Ms. Grey with additional revisions and she is in the process of incorporating those changes. Ms. Grey stated she will have a draft copy on the Council’s next agenda for final approval.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday, March 5, 2014, 2:00 p.m.-3:00 p.m.

Adjournment: