



Florida Advisory Council on Small and Minority Business Development

MEETING MINUTES

November 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), Pamela Hart Frazier (Palm Beach County), George Owen (Independent Consultant), Wendy Grey (Wendy Grey Land Use Planning LLC), Augusto Sanabria (Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida) and Carlos Rodriguez (Maverick Constructors, Inc.). Also, on the call were the DMS/OSD staff members Thad Fortune-MBE Administrator and Denise Wright, Administrative Assistant who recorded the minutes.

NOT IN ATTENDANCE: Rhett Frisbie (The Florida Bar), Samuel Newby (PepsiCo), Anne Marie Richards (Office Depot), Julius Davis (VoltAir Consulting Engineers), Ben Harris (City of Tallahassee), Dale Coxwell (Coastal Steel, Inc.), Jay Narang (GDKN Corporation), Barbara Rhodes Melvin (Wells Fargo Bank), Malik Ali (FMSDC) and Christine McMillon (Ensync Diversified Management Services).

GUESTS: Mr. Peter Harris

Department of Management Services, OSD'S Update, Thad Fortune:

- Mr. Fortune stated there are **5,300** certified vendors with the OSD program.
- Mr. Fortune stated through the Regional MatchMaker Workshops OSD has provided over the years, within the last two months OSD has gotten three calls from certified vendors indicating they have received contracts or graduated from the program by attending the Regional MatchMaker events. The first vendor was Versa Tile & Marble, Inc., Ft. Walton Beach, Florida and the owner is Deshaun Womack. They received a bid last month with the University of South Florida (USF) to provide tile and marble work in a new building going up on USF's campus. The second vendor was United Paving, Inc., Jacksonville, Florida and the owner is Anthony Williams. They received a bid with the School for the Deaf and Blind in St Augustine, Florida. The third company called indicating they had graduated from the program because they are no longer eligible due to the amount of work they have gotten over the last several years and their net worth now exceeds the threshold to be certified with the OSD program.
- OSD had to prepare a form to the Department of State with the Advisory Council's ethnicity breakdown and gender breakdown.

Stakeholder Commentary: Peter Harris, Senior Management Consultant, Enterprise Florida, Inc.

- Mr. Harris congratulated the Council for their participation in last month's final working group session on the working group report on Access to Capital as well as access to the Market Place.
- Mr. Harris stated the Council is a member of what is called the group of 6. He forwarded information to Denise Wright to forward to Council members on what the group do and how they see it going forward. Mr. Harris stated the **first group** is the Advisory Council as the statutory authorized policy advisory by the Governor and Legislature administered through DMS. The **second group** is FAMBEO public and private sector procurement officials throughout the State as a nonprofit. The **third group** is the Coalition for Micro Enterprise Development which is developmental services providers on micro business. The **fourth group** is the Florida Consortium of Black Businesses which is led by Veronica Anderson. The **fifth group** is the Hispanic Business Initiative Fund which is a statewide business development services provider. The **sixth**

group is the South Florida Minority Supplier Development Council which is a statewide business development services provider.

- Mr. Harris stated they are working on a minority business fan tar so minority businesses outside the State of Florida are familiarized with Enterprise Florida's incentives and grants and they feel empowered to compete with those grants.

Council Chair/Vice Chair's Update:

- Ms. Gonzalez stated this is the year for the Council's brand to be developed. She said for the next two months that's what she will be bringing to bear with respect to communications and things they have talked about but have not been done. Part of rolling out that brand first be the report of access to capital and access to the market place, then the Council will be rolling out the State Strategic and Comprehensive Plan report. Lastly, the Council will be rolling out the Annual Report.
- Ms. Gonzalez stated one of the key things of the Council is they are a group of leaders on small and minority business development policy. She said the Council is looking to maintain inclusion in state government for small and minority business development through policy.
- Ms. Gonzalez stated the Council will have a short call meeting so they can continue the work and vote on and approve the minutes so they can be placed online.
- Ms. Gonzalez stated based upon the report she has six items listed. **1)** the Direct Support Organization, **2)** the clarity of the definition of a small business, **3)** the extension of the current bond program, **4)** micro finance bill which needs to be strengthen and **5)** a budget for the Council per statute.
- Ms. Gonzalez stated the By Laws Report submitted by Ms. Hart Frazier looks good and she asked that members look over the report and it will be reviewed at the next Council meeting.

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday, December 3, 2014, 2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.