



Florida Advisory Council on Small and Minority Business Development

MEETING MINUTES

May 6, 2015

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), Jay Narang (GDKN Corporation), Pamela Hart Frazier (Palm Beach County), Ben Harris (City of Tallahassee), Rhett Frisbie (The Florida Bar), Malik Ali (FMSDC), Julius Davis (VoltAir Consulting Engineers), Anne Marie Richards (Office Depot), Augusto Sanabria (Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida) and Wendy Grey (Wendy Grey Land Use Planning LLC). 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: Carlos Rodriguez (Maverick Constructors, Inc.), Christine McMillon (Ensync Diversified Management Services), George Owen (Independent Consultant), Barbara Rhodes Melvin (Wells Fargo Bank).

CALL-IN GUESTS: Diana Gonzalez/for Bill Johnson, Secretary of Commerce and President/Chief Executive Officer, Enterprise Florida, Inc. and Peter Harris-Enterprise Florida.

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

Adoption of Minutes from the April 14, 2015 meeting: Mr. Narang moved to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Richards. The minutes were accepted and approved unanimously by the Council.

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

- OSD staff and some State Agencies attended the South Florida Business MatchMaker in Ft. Lauderdale. While there, OSD staff conducted on-site certification.
- Today, May 6, 2015, Ms. Fagg is in Tampa attending the University of South Florida's Small Business Development Center's Small Business Conference. Ms. Fagg will make a presentation about OSD activities including the certification process and conduct on-site certification.
- The following Business MatchMakers will occur by the end of the State's fiscal year: Tallahassee Business MatchMaker on May 21st - OSD will team up with the Small Business Development Center Small Business Week Committee. Also, 95% of the State Agencies signed up for One-On-Ones; City and County entities will participate. DMS Secretary Poppell will introduce the speaker and bring greetings from the Department of Management Services and the Governor's Office. OSD is heavily promoting the event through local radio and television media. Mr. Fortune mentioned Ben Harris from the City of Tallahassee and a Florida Advisory Council Member is an event partner. Following that event is the Southwest Florida Business MatchMaker that will be held June 4th in Ft. Myers, Florida. Council members are invited to participate if in the area to bring greetings.
- Mr. Fortune stated there are **5,307** companies certified with the State of Florida.
- Ms. Gonzalez asked Mr. Fortune about the Council's recommendation for DMS Communications Office to enhance the Council's web page to facilitate access since it is currently set-up to present people from finding Council information.

Council Chair's Update:

- The strategic planning brainstorming session was held during the Southern Florida Minority Supplier Development Council's (SFMSDC) event April 14th and went very well. Gonzalez thanked Ms. Beatrice Louissaint for the excellent hospitality and the seven Council members who physically attended.
- Key Concern: The State of Florida Department of Management Services does not take small minority business development seriously nor seeks to consider Council recommendations. She said the Council is doing work but is not receiving support to distribute its information. Gonzalez, the Council is a professional body that warrants support.
- State Statutes call for the Council to meet once or twice a year and they meet monthly and have several other meetings along the way. The Council's efforts illustrate its members believe in the work and they are committed in doing the work.
- The Council is supposed to have a budget per Statutes; however, no support is provided.
- The Council does not conduct events not is it a program-oriented Council. The Council recommends salient policy for small and minority business development.
- Ms. Gonzalez stated she speaks on behalf of the Council when and where she can for an example, when she sees the Governor at events and programs; however, it would be so helpful for DMS Secretary would carry forth the Council's message based on the current structure.
- Those present agreed that it is time to redefine the charge of the Council and to be vocal and recommend that the Council be a standalone body with a budget that reports to the Executive Office of the Governor. They also discussed recommended that OSD should report to the Executive Office of the Governor.
- Members considered MaSBEC, which is supposed to be a statutorily designated division of Enterprise Florida. They also noted that "G6" has become a de facto unit to assist Enterprise Florida in a number of ways, which invariably helps the state; however, there is no press about its accomplishments.
- Chairwoman Gonzalez stated it was like music to her ears to hear a Council member say "the DSO is good, but it is not good enough." She said the work to assist small and minority business development would be strongly enhanced and viewed very positively for the State if they reported to the Governor's Office and had a budget. This is a higher step than the DSO.
- Chairwoman Gonzalez asked for a motion to adopt the brainstorming section report. Ms. Frazier moved to adopt the brainstorming section report. The motion was seconded by Mr. Narang. The brainstorming section report was accepted and approved unanimously by the Council.

Stakeholder Commentary: Diana Gonzalez for/Bill Johnson, Secretary of Commerce and President/Chief Executive Officer, Enterprise Florida, Inc.

- Ms. Diana Gonzalez stated that during Mr. Johnson's tenure with Miami-Dade, he served in a number of executive positions including eight years as Director of the Port of Miami; and, as an Assistant County Manager, he had oversight of Miami International Airport. He also served as Director of the Miami-Dade Water & Sewer Department and has had management responsibility for a number of the County's large infrastructure projects including construction of the American Airlines Arena and the Adrienne Arsht Center for the Performing Arts.
- She stated part of Mr. Johnson's job was to make sure that all businesses had an opportunity to participate in contracting. He served on the Miami-Dade County's Small Business Development Committee and the Contract Review Committee. Their sole purpose was to make sure that minority-owned and small businesses were a part of the contracting teams for large and small projects.
- She also said that Mr. Johnson comes to this position with a background of understanding how important inclusionary policies are.
- The first day on the job for Mr. Johnson which was March 2nd was also the first day of the Legislature. Over the past couple of months he has been focusing on the legislative initiatives including the budget for Enterprise Florida that can allow this organization to continue with job creation and bringing new companies to the State.
- One of Mr. Johnson's first efforts was to get to know the different communities around the state and he has made it his job to attend economic development meetings, chambers of commerce and conferences.
- Mr. Johnson is also engaged in a listening program to hear concerns around the state to determine what Enterprise Florida can do.
- Mr. Johnson seeks a greater connection between Enterprise Florida and local economic development organizations because "job creation and economic development really happens at the local level."

- Another area of concern is clear and consistent communication between Enterprise Florida. He wants to make sure that Florida is properly presented as a state not only for big businesses but for all businesses.
- Mr. Johnson's next big goal following the Legislative session is to look at Enterprise Florida and ask the question, "What's working well and what can be improved?"
- When asked, Ms. Diana Gonzalez stated that the best contact for the Florida Ports Council is Mr. Johnson directly at BillJohnson@enterpriseflorida.com and to copy her at Dmgzo@aol.com. She said in the e-mail express your desire to make sure there is communication with the Florida Ports Council regarding diversity inclusion so that there can be appropriate follow-through with the right people.
- Ms. Cheryl Gonzalez asked Mr. Julius Davis to provide reports to Enterprise Florida during board meetings. He agreed but would need speaking points for the meetings. The next meetings are May 27th and 28th.

Old Business and Actions Requiring Votes:

- A. State Comprehensive Plan Implementation Plan Review:** No update.
- B. State Agency Vendor Diversity Committee Update:** Mr. Frisbie asked for an update on the request made by the Council to DMS to get a report of the performance of state agencies and their spend activity for first- and second-tier spending. Ms. Wright will get an update from Mr. Fortune.
- C. Council Vacancies:** Ms. Gonzalez asked members to provide the names of anyone interested in filling the vacancies on the Council and in addition to that send her their resumes. She said there are five positions that are currently open. She also asked current members to send a letter to Denise Wright or address it directly to Secretary Poppell or Donna Budd expressing your interest in continuing to serve on the Advisory Council if their terms had expired.

Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday, June 2, 2015

Adjournment

Meeting Adjourned 3:05 p.m.