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## Florida Advisory Council on Small and Minority Business Development

Broward County Convention Center  
1950 Eisenhower Boulevard  
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33316

### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, April 14, 2015  
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

#### **WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:**

Chair Gonzalez welcomed everyone to the meeting. **IN ATTENDANCE - On-Site:** Cheryl Gonzalez, **Chair** - (University of North Florida), Jay Narang (GDKN Corporation), Barbara Rhodes Melvin (Wells Fargo Bank), Christine McMillon (Ensync Diversified Management Services), Anne Marie Richards (Office Depot), Augusto Sanabria (Hispanic Business Initiative Fund of Florida) and Carlos Rodriguez (Maverick Constructors, Inc.).

**IN ATTENDANCE - On the Phone:** Pamela Hart Frazier (Palm Beach County). Also, on the call was DMS/OSD staff member Denise Wright, Administrative Assistant who recorded the minutes.

**NOT IN ATTENDANCE:** Wendy Grey (Wendy Grey Land Use Planning LLC), Ben Harris (City of Tallahassee), George Owen (Independent Consultant), Rhett Frisbie (The Florida Bar), Malik Ali (FMSDC) and Julius Davis (VoltAir Consulting Engineers).

**Adoption of Minutes from the March 4, 2015 meeting:** Ms. Melvin moved to adopt the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Frazier. The minutes were accepted and approved unanimously by the Council.

#### **Council Chair/Vice Chair's Update:**

- Ms. Gonzalez stated the State of Florida's Government hasn't taken the small and minority business development seriously. She said this is based upon the charge of the Council with respect they are doing the work, but it is not getting out.
- Ms. Gonzalez stated the Council is a volunteer group and they spend a lot of time and resources to make things happen. She said the Council will have to work more closely with the Stakeholders to help them understand the role that the Council plays, so they can overcome any perceptions and misperceptions.
- Ms. Gonzalez stated the Council requires support in carrying out its mission. She said they will have to spend time with the Legislators and redefining the charge of the Council.
- Ms. Gonzalez stated the DSO was one proposal and they are now looking at that as secondary. She said it's not about the DSO it's about the work and she said there is a need for the Council to be a board or body like some of the other Councils throughout the State that operate with a budget, whether they get it from the State or they raise the money and they also have staff to get the work done.
- Ms. Gonzalez stated one of the questions the Council looked at was the role of the Office of Supplier Diversity as to how and where it should report. She said they are basically asking if the State does not want to support small and minority businesses, then what is the next alternative.
- Ms. Gonzalez stated that in the past OSD reported to the Office of the Governor. She said that makes sense because when leadership takes command, the staff follow.
- Ms. Gonzalez stated leadership has to be part of the solution. She said the Council needs support from DMS Communication Office.
- Ms. Gonzalez stated the Strategic Plan that was done five or six years ago is outdated. She said the good news is the Council has done a lot of the work associated with Access to Capital and Access to the MarketPlace.

- Ms. Gonzalez stated as a Council, they spend a lot of money, time and effort to get the job done. She said the Council needs support because they don't have a budget, but according to the Statute, the Council is supposed to have a budget. Also, she said they can't get the tools they need to be a professional.
- Ms. Gonzalez stated when she went to register for the Ft. Lauderdale event, they asked for her Council business card. She said the State of Florida can't afford to get the Council business cards.
- Ms. Gonzalez stated Ms. Alison Jimenez, former Vice Chair of the Council, stated "no matter what, she does not want the state to advocate its responsibilities for small and minority businesses".

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Wednesday, May 6, 2015, 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

**Adjournment**

Mr. Narang moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Melvin. The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m.