



Florida Advisory Council on Small and Minority Business Development

MEETING MINUTES

February 3, 2010

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Welcome & Introductions:

In attendance were Malik Ali (FMSDC), Alyce Zahniser (Zahniser & Associates), Franklin Cross (City of Tampa), LaRae Floyd (Broward Health), Ben Harris (President of FAMBEO), Thomas Huggins (President of Ariel Business Group), Jodi Bailey (Department of Health) and Cheryl Gonzalez (Florida Gulf Coast University). Also in attendance were Torey Alston (OSD) and Denise Wright (OSD), who recorded the minutes.

Approval of Minutes: There was not a quorum. The Council will approve minutes at next meeting.

OSD Executive Director's Update:

- ✓ Ms. Wright stated at the last Council Meeting, Mr. Alston reported OSD was in the process of finalizing its Annual Report. That was accomplished and the report was distributed.

Chairman's Update:

- ✓ Mr. Ali requested the dates for the Regional MatchMaker Workshops and Economic Stimulus Seminars. It was noted that the Regional MatchMaker Workshop dates are listed on OSD's website and no Stimulus Seminar dates were yet scheduled.
- ✓ Ms. Gonzalez stated that the request to meet with the University Vice Presidents' Council will be resumed with Dr. Sundra Kinsey of the Florida Board of Governors.
- ✓ Mr. Ali stated will coordinate a meeting or call with Mr. Chris Hart, the new director of the Office of Trade Tourism and Economic Development. Since the FACSMBD Report has been posted on the website, Mr. Ali will forward it to Mr. Hart in preparation for a future meeting.
- ✓ Mr. Ali will forward the OSD report with a cover letter to appropriate stakeholders including DMS Secretary Linda South and Governor Charlie Crist.
- ✓ Mr. Harris noted a change needed in the Secretary's letter. The end of the first paragraph reads: *"... during fiscal year 2008-2009 that resulted in \$1.35 billion in spending with these minority-owned vendors"* should read \$1.35 trillion instead.
- ✓ Reminder: The teleconference call-in number for the Advisory Council and Committee meetings is always the same. To join a conference call, please dial **1-888-808-6959**, when prompted enter the **conference code 9226850** followed by the **# key** and that will connect you to the call. Please remember if you have problems calling in; call OSD's main number (850) 487-0915.

Committee Reports:

1. **Research/Emerging Trends:** No Report. Ms. Gonzalez asked whether the White Paper submitted to the Research and Emerging Trends Committee was still on the table. Mr. Huggins stated it was going to be on its next Committee meeting agenda.
2. **Supplier Diversity Assessment (SDA):** Ms. Gonzalez stated all of SDA's Committee agendas and minutes were completed and would be forwarded to the Council. Also, Ms. Gonzalez stated according to a conversation with Mr. Alston, that the Request for Information (RFI) will be allowed to be disseminated under the umbrella of the Council. The SDA Committee would seek help from OSD staff to post and distribute the RFT to interested parties. She announced the next

SDA Committee meeting on Thursday, February 4, 2010. Mr. Ali wants to send committee meeting notices to all Council Members.

3. **By-Laws:** No Report. Ms. Floyd said she will get with Mr. Alston to communicate with Mr. Williams develop the final draft of the By-Laws.

Old & New Business:

- ✓ Ms. Gonzalez asked OSD staff to update Council minutes on the website. She also requested to include all committee reports, agendas and meeting minutes.
- ✓ Ms. Gonzalez asked about consistency with regard to the Annual Report title and date. She asked whether the 2008-2009 report would be listed as 2009. Ms. Pierre stated that she will update the 2008 report to read 2007-2008.

Next Scheduled Council Meeting: March 11, 2010, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m., Broward County Convention Center, Fort Lauderdale, Florida

Open Discussion:

- ✓ Mr. Harris stated the Council should take a position on the distribution of dollars for the new high speed rail that is expected to utilize “stimulus” dollars. He expressed that current standards would preclude DBE participation. Chairman Ali suggested having a conference call with Secretary South regarding the matter. Mr. Cross stated the stimulus dollars were given to Florida to stimulate Florida’s economy. He said he would hate to see Florida’s dollars go to companies come from other states. Ms. Gonzalez stated the Council should develop a set of talking points prior to speaking with the Secretary.
- ✓ Chairman Ali volunteered to draft a letter regarding distribution plans for federal stimulus dollars as it relates to the high speed rail in terms of small and minority businesses. Vice Chairman Zahniser asked whether the Chairman would draft the letter and send it to Mr. Alston to forward to the Council for review.
- ✓ Vice Chairman Zahniser is working on the agenda for the training/meeting in Ft. Lauderdale. She also stated she will call Mr. Alston for brainstorming on expected. She stated there should be a facilitator at the training/meeting.
- ✓ Vice Chairman Zahniser volunteered to lead the action to add an attorney on the Council. Chairman Ali stated this would go to Mr. Alston and the Governor for final approval.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.