

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR JULIA MEJIA



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO AUDIT THE CITY OF BOSTON'S PROCUREMENT PROCESSES, PROCEDURES AND PROGRESS

- WHEREAS,** In 2020, the City of Boston published a Disparity Study, which indicated a disproportionate underutilization of minority- and women-owned businesses; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In response to the 2020 Disparity Study results, in February of 2021, the Mayor issued an Executive Order to address and ameliorate the outcomes by committing to a utilization goal of at least 25% contracting with minority- and women-owned businesses across all contracts awarded in any fiscal year; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Given these stated goals, it is imperative to discern if minority and women-owned businesses, small or micro, attempting to contract with the City of Boston are able to compete with businesses that are more knowledgeable and experienced with the City of Boston's procurement processes, practices and procedures; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Executive Order attempts to remedy both the historical and current barriers minority- and women-owned businesses encounter when interacting with the city's contracting processes. It is essential to determine if there are any compounding disadvantages that need to be further identified and properly addressed through an audit of the City of Boston's Chapter 30B procurement processes, practices and procedures; *and*
- WHEREAS,** An important component to creating access to opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses is an effective communication strategy which targets minority- and women-owned businesses to ensure that a broader population of businesses are notified about the opportunities to bid on contracts from all city agencies and quasi-public organizations funded by the City of Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Furthermore, the cultural sensitivity of these advertisements, outreach efforts, and technical assistance support, are also important and necessary steps to ensure small, micro, minority- and women-owned businesses are fully aware of existing and future contracting opportunities, and thus, the effectiveness of these efforts must be evaluated; *and*

WHEREAS,

Once a micro or small business is given an opportunity to do business with the City of Boston, working capital is often an issue. The payment schedule is inconsistent with the financial constraints of many micro and small businesses and a quick pay policy for small businesses needs to be explored in order to ensure minority- and women-owned, micro or small businesses have the cash flow needed to fully participate and scale; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine the City of Boston's procurement practices and enact a prompt pay policy for micro and small businesses. Representatives from the administration, including the Administration and Finance, Auditing, Procurement, and Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. Community advocates such as the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts, Amplify Latinx and local organizations and members of the public are also encouraged to testify.

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