



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
Michelle Wu

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear City Councilors:

In Response to a 17F request filed by your Honorable Body on November 7, 2022.

Re: Relative to the Department of Public Works.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston

January 26, 2023

Via Electronic Mail

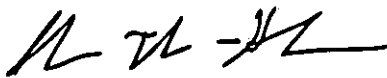
Tania Fernandes Anderson
Boston City Councilor, District 7
Boston City Hall, 5th Floor
One City Hall Plaza Boston, MA 02201

Re: 17F Request Related to Public Works Procurement

Dear Councilor Fernandes Anderson:

Please see attached for the data you requested per the 17F request filed on November 9, 2022 as well as a narrative explanation below. We would be happy to discuss further should you have additional questions or concerns.

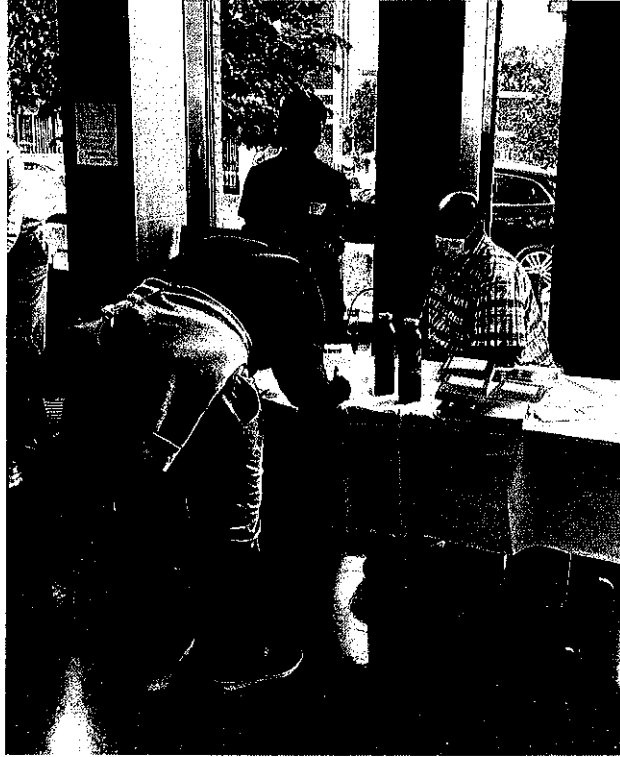
Sincerely,



Jascha Franklin-Hodge
Chief of Streets

The Public Works Department (PWD) continues to build on the City of Boston's commitment to take bold action to address the past and present effects of discrimination in the procurement process, particularly the impact on minority-owned (MBE) and women-owned enterprises (WBE).

Public Works has worked closely with the Department of Supplier and Workforce Diversity in Economic Opportunity and Inclusion (EOI) in a number of ways, and has begun a regular check-in meeting to ensure we are moving towards our equity goals. Other significant steps we have taken include participating in a series of "**Pathways to City Contracting Opportunity**" fairs, and meeting directly with MBE and WBE owners, helping them identify opportunities to bid on Public Works contracts, and assisting them in navigating the procurement process as a whole.



PWD team at a recent Pathways to City Contracting Opportunity event.

We recognize that we have a long way to go to ensure that our city contracts reflect the diversity of our city. For many of our largest contracts, our department faces constraints under the law. By Massachusetts law, Public Works Construction projects of more than \$10,000 are required to be awarded to the lowest responsible and responsive bidder. Despite these constraints, there is more work that our city can and should do to create the market conditions necessary to grow the amount of money spent by the Public Works Department through M/WBE businesses.

However, the Public Works Department has made significant recent progress in both increasing the amount of spending with M/WBEs and in laying the groundwork for future equitable procurement. Current MBE and WBE contractors delivering a wide array of services to Boston residents include:

Assembly, Distribution and Maintenance of Recycling Bins: Part of this contract was awarded to A & M Home Services of Dorchester, MA for \$341,964 over 3 years (\$113,988 per year). This contract requires A & M Services to deliver recycling carts 12 months a year, including to those residents who live in residential buildings with 1 to 6 units. Residents can request carts online or by calling 311.

Collection and Recycling of Mattresses and Box Springs: With the implementation of a statewide mattress and box spring ban beginning on January 1, 2023, the City of Boston awarded a contract to NEMA LLC and owner Daniel Appolon for \$3,376,800.00 over 3 years (\$1,125,600 per year). Beginning in January, the City of Boston will no longer collect mattresses and box springs on the curb - they will require an appointment for collection. To schedule an appointment, residents can call 311.

Clearing, Plowing and Salting of Municipal Staircases Footpaths: To assist the Public Works Department during snow and ice control operations, bids were issued to clear, plow and treat staircases and footpaths across the City of Boston before, during and after inclement weather events. These 1-year contracts were divided into 5 separate zones and awarded to Casablanca Services Inc. (2 zones), NS Contracting (2 zones), and A & M Home Services (1 zone). Both Casablanca Services and A & M Home Services are minority owned, and NS Contracting is both minority and women owned.

A & M Home Services and NS Contracting, both home grown companies from Dorchester and Roxbury, were awarded these contracts as part of the City of Boston's Sheltered Market Program to advance equity in procurement. Building on the findings of the City's 2021 disparity study, the Sheltered Market Program allows the City to reserve certain contracts for minority- and/or women-owned businesses. This program, among others, will help the City build a pipeline of diverse local vendors who can help us deliver excellent City services to our neighborhoods.