

Offered by Councilors Brian Worrell and Tania Fernandes Anderson, Arroyo, Bok, Breadon, Coletta, Flaherty, Lara, Louijeune, Mejia, Murphy and Flynn



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING EQUITY IN CITY CONTRACTS

WHEREAS: The Disparity Study in City Contracting commissioned by Mayor Walsh analyzed over 47,000 contracts awarded by the City from 2014 - 2019 reported that of those contracts, 11% were awarded to minority- and women-owned businesses and only 0.4% reached Black businesses.; *and*

WHEREAS: Mayor Walsh's Executive Order Establishing Equitable Procurement Goals in Support of Minority- and Woman-Owned Businesses in 2021 set city goals for MWBE contracts at 25% (MBE 10% and WBE 15%); *and*

WHEREAS: The Executive Order also required that every department must develop and submit a plan for racial- and gender-conscious goals in procurement; *and*

WHEREAS: The Supplier Diversity program was created with 6 supporting staff positions to oversee the above goals by implementing strategies for fair and equitable access to City contracting opportunities; *and*

WHEREAS: Through the Contracting Opportunity Fund, the City awarded \$820,000 to support certified woman (WBE), minority (MBE), veteran-owned (VSBE), and small and local businesses (SLBE) within the City of Boston that wish to compete for City contracting opportunities in 2022; *and*

WHEREAS: The Supplier Diversity program has implemented other strategies such as publishing the City's first Buying Plan, hosted ongoing Opportunity Fairs, Info Sessions, and Clinics, and streamlined the process to secure MBE certification; *and*

WHEREAS: Many private enterprise businesses have procedures in place to assist MWBEs through application processes and policies to resize and restructure contract opportunities to allow for increased MWBE participation; *and*

WHEREAS: The City of Boston has experienced significant turnover and has started to stabilize within the departments associated with these goals; **NOW
THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the status of increasing the procurement of city contracts by MWBE's and

that representatives from the Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, Equity Cabinet, and the public be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 27, 2023