

Minority Business Enterprise Compliance Office

Certification Review Committee (CRC)

Minutes of the Meeting

November 20, 2007

A meeting of the Certification Review Committee (CRC) was held at the Rhode Island Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908 on Tuesday, November 20, 2007. The meeting was called to order at 2:17 p.m. with a quorum being declared present. Members in attendance were: Charles Newton, Olayinka Oredugba, Louise Anderson, Muraina Akinfolarin, and Denise Correy. Also in attendance was Dorinda Keene, staff to the CRC.

The Minutes of the October 17, 2007 meeting were reviewed. After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

The Certification Review Committee reviewed recommendations of the MBE Compliance Office regarding applications submitted on behalf of the following firms:

- a) Arora Engineers, Inc. MBE/DBE PA**
- b) The Bright Idea Group WBE/DBE RI**
- c) Court One Corporation WBE/DBE VA**
- d) D & M Translations, Inc. dba Translations Plus, Inc. M/W/DBE NJ**

- e) Healthy Babies, Happy Moms, Inc. WBE/DBE RI
- f) Julesan, Inc., d/b/a Gnomon Copy WBE/DBE MA
- g) Keeping Your Books WBE/DBE RI
- h) Landscape Elements, LLC WBE CT
- i) Paramount Solutions, Inc. M/W/DBE GA
- j) Products Direct, LLC M/W/DBE MI
- k) Premium Paving & Construction, Inc. MBE/DBE RI
- l) Simplicity Healthcare Systems, LLC MBE TX

After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the certification of these firms for participation in the State of Rhode Island's MBE program, as well as the DBE program, as applicable, as administered by those transportation agencies governed by 49 CFR in the industry as detailed in the write up presented by the MBE Compliance Office. Motion carried unanimously.

The Certification Review Committee reviewed recommendations of the MBE Compliance Office regarding applications submitted on behalf of the following firm:

- a) Davanc Contracting, Inc. MBE/DBE RI

After some discussion, this item was tabled until the next CRC meeting, pending additional information.

Hearings:

E.L. Waterman, Inc. – The hearing before the CRC regarding the certification of E.L. Waterman, Inc., originally scheduled for November 20, 2007, has been postponed until December 19, 2007, per the request of the applicant. The new hearing date is now scheduled for 2:15 p.m. on Wednesday, December 19, 2007.

Old/New Business:

Montgomery Consulting Group, Inc. – The CRC Members were advised that Montgomery Consulting Group, Inc. had filed an appeal of their certification denial with U.S. DOT. A complete copy of the applicant's file has been transferred to U.S. DOT as required pursuant to 49 CFR 26.

The Smart Associates Environmental Consultants – The Certification Review Committee reviewed the recommendation of the MBE Compliance Office regarding the recertification application submitted on behalf of The Smart Associates Environmental Consultants. After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to accept the recommendation of the MBE Compliance Office to notify this applicant of the need for a hearing regarding issues of control and dependency upon a non-minority individual. Motion carried unanimously.

The MBE Compliance Office advised the CRC that various U.S. DOT recipients in the state (RIDOT, RIDOA, and RIPTA) are currently in the process of undergoing an audit with the Federal Transit Authority (FTA). Based upon some of the preliminary recommendations from FTA, the MBE Compliance Office has sent a memo to the legal department regarding some the requested changes, such as utilizing the Uniform DBE Certification Application, requesting to modify/amend the DBE application to include supplemental materials, changes in the website and links, changes in regulations and verbiage, and rulings on the release of DBE information.

The MBE Compliance Office advised the CRC that, based on recent changes in state law, all contractors performing work on both residential and commercial properties must now be licensed by the Contractors Registration Board. Previously, only those contractors performing work on residential properties were required to be licensed.

The MBE Compliance Office notified the CRC that the U.S. Small Business Administration Office of Advocacy had recently released a report of Minorities in Business: A Demographic Review of Minority Business Ownership. A copy of this report will be forward to all CRC members.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:19 p.m. The next meeting of the CRC shall be

Wednesday, December 19, 2007 at 2:00 p.m.