

**Minority Business Enterprise Compliance Office
Certification Review Committee (CRC)
Minutes of the Meeting**

May 15, 2012

A meeting of the Certification Review Committee (CRC) was held at the Rhode Island Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, 2nd Floor, Providence, RI 02908 on Tuesday, May 15, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 1:11 p.m. with a quorum being declared present. Members in attendance: Charles Newton, Louise Anderson, Muraina Akinfolarin, and Denise Correy. Members absent: None. Also in attendance were Patsy Peterson and Dorinda Keene, staff to the CRC.

The Minutes of the April 17, 2012 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 by the MBE Compliance Office regarding the applications for certification submitted on behalf of the following firms:

- a) Business Focus, Inc. WBE/DBE RI**
- b) Platinum Tax and Accounting Services, LLC MBE/DBE RI**

After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the DBE certification for those applicable firms. Motion carried unanimously. [Note: Muraina Akinfolarin abstained from the vote regarding Platinum Tax and Accounting Services, LLC, as he has a business relationship with this firm.] A second motion was then made and properly seconded to approve the newly certified DBE firms for the State of Rhode Island's MBE program. Motion was carried unanimously. [Note: Muraina Akinfolarin abstained from the vote.]

Hearings:

Green Building Solutions, Inc. – A hearing was conducted before the CRC regarding the application for certification submitted on behalf of Green Building Solutions, Inc., and was attended in person by Mr. Greg Mancini, Esq., legal counsel for the applicant, and was attended via telephone conference call by Ms. Brenda Nordenstam, President of the applicant firm. After questioning by the members of the CRC regarding issues of ownership, control, dependency upon a non-minority individual, compensation, and the appearance that the firm was structured in order to take advantage of the MBE program, a motion was made and properly seconded to deny certification. Motion carried unanimously.

Old/New Business:

Southern Rhode Island Moving & Storage, LLC – This item was tabled from the previous meeting. The Certification Review Committee reviewed recommendations by the MBE Compliance Office regarding the application for certification submitted on behalf of Southern Rhode Island Moving & Storage, LLC. After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to notify this firm of the need for a hearing based upon issues of control, dependency, affiliation, compensation, and the appearance that the firm was structured to take advantage of the MBE program. Motion carried unanimously.

A continued discussion ensued regarding the recent changes to 49 CFR 26 regarding Inter-State DBE certification. The CRC members were advised that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 22, 2012. Members will be notified when the schedule is finalized.

A continued discussion ensued regarding potential changes to the current MBE certification regulations. Said discussion shall be continued at the next CRC meeting.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:34 p.m. The next meeting of the CRC is scheduled for June 19, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.