

Minority Business Enterprise Compliance Office

Certification Review Committee (CRC)

Minutes of the Meeting

October 16, 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, October 16, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 1:15 p.m. with a quorum being declared present. Members in attendance: Charles Newton, Muraina Akinfolarin, Louise Anderson, and Carmen Diaz-Jusino. Members absent: Denise Correy. Also in attendance was Dorinda Keene, staff to the CRC.

The Minutes of the September 18, 2012 meeting were reviewed. After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

The CRC revised a recommendation by the MBE Compliance Office regarding the application for certification submitted on behalf of the following firm:

a) Bella Transport, Inc. WBE/DBE RI

After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to notify this firm of the need for a hearing based upon issues of

ownership, control, dependency, capital contributions, and the appearance that the firm may have been structured in order to take advantage of the MBE and DBE programs. Motion carried unanimously.

Hearings:

C.L. Vinagro Corp. – A hearing was conducted before the CRC regarding the application for certification as a WBE and DBE as submitted by C.L. Vinagro Corp, and was attended by Ms. Cheri Riccio, President of the applicant firm, as well as by Ms. Carol O'Donnell, President of the local chapter of the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC). After questioning by the members of the CRC regarding issues of ownership, control, dependency, affiliation, compensation, and the appearance that the firm was structured in order to take advantage of the MBE and DBE programs, a motion was made and properly seconded to deny certification as a DBE. Motion carried unanimously. A second motion was then made and properly seconded to deny certification as a WBE. Motion carried unanimously.

Old/New Business:

Safal Partners, Inc. – The application for certification submitted on behalf of Safal Partners, Inc. had previously been remanded back to the MBE Compliance Office on September 18, 2012 for more

information. Based upon a review of the response from the applicant, a motion was made and properly seconded to notify this applicant of the need for a hearing based upon issues of economic disadvantage. Motion carried with three (3) votes for the motion (Anderson, Akinfolarin, and Diaz-Jusino); zero (0) votes against the motion, and one (1) abstention (Newton).

I-Plus Enterprize, LLC – The CRC reviewed a recommendation from the MBE Compliance Office regarding the request for a category expansion as submitted by this currently certified firm. After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the request for a category expansion. Motion carried unanimously.

A continued discussion ensued regarding the recent changes to 49 CFR 26 regarding Inter-State DBE Certification. To date nothing has been finalized between the New England region UCP members. The CRC will be advised of any developments. It was noted that the Inter-State certification agreement, if finalized, will impact only the DBE program. Out of state firms seeking MBE certification will still need to submit a full application for review.

A continued discussion ensued regarding potential changes to the current MBE certification regulations. The MBE Compliance Office is currently drafting new proposed regulations for review and approval.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was

**adjourned at 2:39 p.m. The next meeting of the CRC is scheduled for
Tuesday, October 30, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.**