

# **Minority Business Enterprise Compliance Office**

## **Certification Review Committee (CRC)**

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

**November 20, 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, November 20, 2012. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. with a quorum being declared present. Members in attendance: Charles Newton, Louise Anderson, Carmen Dias-Jusino and Muraina Akinfolarin. Members absent: Denise Correy. Also in attendance were Patsy Peterson and Dorinda Keene, staff to the CRC.**

**The Minutes of the November 13, 2012 meeting were reviewed. After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

**a) Im-Aj Associates, LLC 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**

**control, dependency, and the appearance that the firm was structured in order to take advantage of the MBE and DBE programs. Motion carried with three (3) votes for the motion (Anderson, Dias-Jusino, and Akinfolarin) and one (1) vote against the motion (Newton).**

#### **Hearings:**

**L.A.L. Construction Co., Inc. – A hearing was conducted before the CRC regarding the application for certification as an MBE and DBE submitted L.A.L. Construction Co., Inc., and was attended by Mr. Marcello Louro, President & Co-Owner, Mr. Jaime Antonio, Treasurer & Co-owner, and Mr. Bill Reilly, CPA, outside accountant for the firm. After questioning by the members of the CRC regarding 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, 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 an MBE. Motion carried unanimously.**

#### **Old/New Business:**

**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**

**next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 4 -5, 2012, in Vermont. 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 2:36 p.m. The next meeting of the CRC is scheduled for Tuesday, December 18, 2012 at 1:00 p.m.**