

Minority Business Enterprise Compliance Office

Certification Review Committee (CRC)

Minutes of the Meeting

January 15, 2013

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, January 15, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 1:17 p.m. with a quorum being declared present. Members in attendance: Charles Newton, Carmen Dias-Jusino, Louise Anderson and Denise Correy. Members absent: Muraina Akinfolarin. Also in attendance was Patsy Peterson, staff to the CRC.

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

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

- a) John F. Portillo, d/b/a Portillo Trucking MBE/DBE RI**
- b) Toole Design Group, LLC WBE/DBE MD**

After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to

approve the DBE certification for these firms. Motion carried unanimously. 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 carried unanimously.

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

a) Beth Ashman Collins,

d/b/a Community Economic Futures WBE MA

b) Montage Diversity Consultants, LLC MBE PA

After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the certification for these firms for the State of Rhode Island's MBE program. Motion carried unanimously.

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

c) Gardner & Gerrish, 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 unanimously.

Hearings:

A & A Electric Supply Corporation – A hearing had been scheduled before the CRC regarding the application for certification submitted on behalf of A & A Electric Supply Corporation. The hearing was postponed per the request of the applicant, and has now been rescheduled for February 19, 2013.

Imaj Associates, Inc. – A hearing was conducted before the CRC regarding the application for certification as a WBE and DBE submitted on behalf of Imaj Associates, Inc., and was attended by Ms. Jami Ouellette and Mr. Jeffrey Morse, owners of the applicant firm, as well as by Mr. Casby Harrison, Esq., legal counsel for the applicant. After questioning by the members of the CRC regarding issues of ownership, control, dependency, and the appearance that the firms may have been structured in order to take advantage of the MBE and DBE programs, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the certification of Imaj Associates, Inc. for the DBE program. Motion carried unanimously. A second motion was then made and properly seconded to approve the newly certified DBE firm for the State of Rhode Island's MBE program. Motion carried unanimously.

Old/New Business:

Lindon Group, Inc. – This currently WBE and DBE certified firm submitted a request for a category expansion, and the CRC reviewed recommendations by the MBE Compliance Office regarding same. After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the category expansion request. Motion carried unanimously.

A continued discussion ensued regarding the recent changes to 49 CFR 26 regarding Inter-State DBE Certification. A tentative agreement has been reached between the New England region UCP members. It was noted that the Inter-State Certification Agreement 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 3:21 p.m. The next meeting of the CRC is scheduled for Tuesday, February 19, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.