

# **Minority Business Enterprise Compliance Office**

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

### **Minutes of the Meeting**

**March 19, 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, March 19, 2013. The meeting was called to order at 1:08 p.m. with a quorum being declared present. Members in attendance: Charles Newton, Louise Anderson, Muraina Akinfolarin, and Carmen Diaz-Jusino. Members absent: Denise Correy. Also in attendance were Patsy Peterson and Dorinda Keene, staff to the CRC.**

**The Minutes of the February 19, 2013 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 of the MBE Compliance Office regarding the applications for certification submitted on behalf of the following firms:**

- a) Claro Communications, LLC M/W/DBE NH**
- b) Lahlaf Geotechnical Consulting, Inc. MBE/DBE MA**
- c) Lisa Carnevale, d/b/a Myranda Group WBE/DBE RI**
- d) True Quality Construction, LLC MBE/DBE RI**

**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.**

#### **Hearings:**

**Gardner & Gerrish, LLC – A hearing was conducted before the CRC regarding the application for certification as a WBE and DBE submitted on behalf of Gardner & Gerrish, LLC, and was attended by Ms. Megan Gardner, principal of the firm. After questioning by the members of the CRC regarding issues of control, dependency, compensation, 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 DBE certification. Motion carried unanimously. A second motion was then made and properly seconded to deny WBE certification. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Authority Flooring, Inc. - A hearing was conducted before the CRC regarding the application for certification as a WBE and DBE submitted on behalf of Authority Flooring, Inc., and was attended by Ms. Shirley Nardolillo, part-owner of the firm, and by Mr. Joel Chase, Esq., legal counsel for the applicant. After questioning by the**

**members of the CRC regarding issues of ownership, control, dependency, capital contributions, compensation, 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 DBE certification. Motion carried unanimously. A second motion was then made and properly seconded to deny WBE certification. Motion carried unanimously.**

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

**The members of the CRC were advised that all members are required to participate in the mandatory DBE / ACDBE training as prepared by U.S. DOT. Members should have received emails from info@absorbtraining.com with log-in information for the training modules. All training modules must be completed by April 15, 2013. Each individual will receive a certificate upon completion of all modules.**

**A continued discussion ensued regarding 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 3:25 p.m. The next meeting of the CRC is scheduled for Tuesday, April 16, 2013 at 1:00 p.m.**