

**Minority Business Enterprise Compliance Office**

**Certification Review Committee (CRC)**

**Minutes of the Meeting**

**September 16, 2014**

**A meeting of the Certification Review Committee (CRC) was held at the Rhode Island Department of Administration, One Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908 on Tuesday, September 16, 2014. The meeting was called to order at 1:11 p.m. with a quorum being declared present. Members in attendance: Charles Newton, Louise Anderson-Sawtelle, Louis Francis and Muraina Akinfolarin. Members absent: Carmen Diaz-Jusino. Also in attendance were Patsy Peterson and Dorinda Keene, staff to the CRC.**

**The Minutes of the August 15, 2014 meeting were reviewed. After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve the Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.**

**The CRC reviewed recommendations by the MBE Compliance Office regarding applications for certification submitted on behalf of the following firms:**

- a) Central Electrical Specialty Corp. WBE/DBE MA**
- b) Hosea DeMarzino, d/b/a HEMB Wellness MBE/DBE RI**
- c) Supreme Safety, Inc. MBE/DBE PA**

**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 MBE certification for these firms for participation in the State of Rhode Island's MBE program. Motion carried unanimously.**

**The CRC reviewed recommendations by the MBE Compliance Office regarding applications for certification submitted on behalf of the following firms:**

- a) Cobble Hill Landscape & Construction, Inc. WBE/DBE RI**
- b) Devon Corporation WBE/DBE RI**

**After some discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to notify these firms of the need for a hearing based upon issues of ownership, control, dependency, affiliation, capital contributions, compensation, and the appearance that firms may have been structured in order to take advantage of the MBE and/or DBE programs.**

**Hearings:**

**Sweetland Foods, Inc., d/b/a Cross Country Cookie – A hearing was conducted before the CRC regarding an application for WBE and DBE certification submitted on behalf of Sweetland Foods, Inc., d/b/a**

**Cross Country Cookie, and was attended by Susan Murray, President of the firm, as well as by George Carulo, Esq., legal counsel, Dean Robinson, Esq., legal counsel, Chris Lefoley, CPA, accountant for the applicant, and Paula Durand, stenographer. After questioning by the members of the CRC regarding issues of ownership, control, 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 approve DBE certification. Motion carried unanimously. A second motion was then made and properly seconded to approve MBE certification. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Martinez Couch & Associates, LLC - A hearing was conducted before the CRC regarding an application for DBE certification submitted on behalf of Martinez Couch & Associates, LLC, and was attended by A. Rafael Martinez on behalf of the applicant. After questioning by the members of the CRC regarding issues of licensing, control, dependency and the appearance that the firm was structured in order to take advantage of the DBE program, the applicant amended his application to request certification only for the following scopes of work – “consultant specializing in environmental consulting, GIS, cost estimating, environmental impact studies, assessments, or statements, platting, mapping, flood plain studies and construction inspection”. After further discussion, a motion was made and properly seconded to approve DBE certification for this revised scope. Motion carried unanimously.**

## **Old/New Business:**

**All In One Drug Testing Services, LLC – The application for certification submitted on behalf of this applicant remains tabled pending receipt of additional information. The CRC directed the MBE Compliance Office to set a deadline for submission of this information, and to advise the applicant accordingly. Failure to submit all information by the deadline will result in the application for certification being withdrawn.**

**Copley Wolff Design Group, Inc. – The application for certification submitted on behalf of this applicant remains tabled, pending testing and licensing results for the applicant, as well as pending additional information. The CRC directed the MBE Compliance Office to set a deadline for submission of this information, and to advise the applicant accordingly. A date will be set for the continuation of the hearing for this applicant.**

**There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 3:48 p.m. The next meeting of the CRC is scheduled for Tuesday, October 21, 2014 at 1:00 p.m.**