

Equal Opportunity Review Commission

MINUTES

Wednesday June 20, 2018

12:00 PM

Pennsylvania Bar Institute

Professional Development Center Conference Center

Heinz 57 Center

339 Sixth Avenue, Suite 760

Pittsburgh, Pa. 15222

Commissioners in Attendance: Jennie Sweet-Cushman, Justin Laing, Barry Nathan, Demeshia Seals, Gonzalo Manchego, Andrea Vasquez, Tracey McCants-Lewis, Karen Hall, Erin Conley

Call-ins: James Myers Jr,

Staff in Attendance: Chuck, Durham, Valerie McDonald-Roberts, Emily Pontarelli, Ricardo Williams

I. Minutes are approved for May 2018

II. New Plans

- **1806-01-** Housing Authority, Painting of Common area and Occupied Units Authority Wide

Anthony Mannella, Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh, presents the MWBE plan. Anthony Mannella explains that the prime (Dream Chaser Painting LLC) has met the required 18% MBE and the 7% WBE participation on this plan. J & S Handyman will be the MBE subcontractor and Enhance Creativity will be the WBE subcontractor on the plan. Both of the subcontractors have their certifications and signed letters of commitment.

The representative from Dream Chaser Painting notes that she is the process of receiving her MWBE certification.

Erin Conley makes a motion to approve, Demeshia Seals seconds.

PLAN IS APPROVED

- **1806-02-** Housing Authority, Painting of Common Areas and Occupied Units Authority Wide.

Anthony Mannella, Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh, presents the MWBE plan. The prime (J & S Handyman Services) is a certified MBE and will be performing 93% of the work on this contract. They were able to meet the required 7% WBE participation on the plan with Branderic Consulting Co. as a subcontractor. After a brief discussion a motion is taken to approve the plan.

Tracy McCants-Lewis makes a motion to approve, Karen Hall seconds.

PLAN IS APPROVED

- **1806-03-** Housing Authority, Caliguir Plaza Interior Renovation – Electrical

Anthony Mannella, Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh, presents the plan. The prime (Bronder Technical Services) was able to meet the 18% MBE (Greenwood McDonald Supply Co.) and the 7% WBE (J. Sterling Solutions LLC). Both of the subcontractors have their certifications and signed letters of commitment.

Barry Nathan makes a motion to approve, Erin Conley seconds.

PLAN IS APPROVED

- **1806-04** – Housing Authority, Caliguir Plaza Interior Renovation – General Contractor

Anthony Mannella, Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh, presents the plan. The prime (Plavchak Construction) was not able to reach the 18% MBE or the 7% WBE participation with goals of 10.6% MBE and 23.6% WBE.

The prime did reach out to subcontractors to increase participation, however, due to the fact that Plavchak is a union company they were unable to find other MWBE union companies that were able to do the work for a reasonable price. After a discussion about how to proceed with getting union subcontractors on projects a vote is taken.

Karen Hall makes a motion to approve, Andrea Vasquez seconds.

PLAN IS APPROVED

- **1806-05-** Housing Authority, Security Camera System Maintenance

Anthony Mannella, Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh, presents the plan. The prime contractor (Horizon Information Systems) is a certified MBE that we be performing 82% of the contract. They were able to exceed the required WBE participation on the plan.

The WBE (Greenwood McDonald Supply) will be receiving 18% of the work. After a brief discussion a motion is taken to approve the plan.

Demeshia Seals makes a motion to approve, Tracy McCants-Lewis seconds.

PLAN IS APPROVED

A question is raised by Mannella regarding whether maintenance contracts (nonprofessional service contracts) should come in front of the commission. EORC leadership will clarify this after speaking with Housing Authority procurement department.

- **1806-06-** Department of Public Safety, Public Safety Uniforms

Jenifer Olzinger, Procurement and Tony Landolina, Public Safety of the City of Pittsburgh, present the plan. The prime (Pittsburgh Public Safety Supply, Inc.) on the plan was not able to reach the required 18% MBE or the 7% WBE participation.

The prime contractor discusses that the majority of this contract is a commodity contract, supplying uniform and uniform accessories while keeping with collective bargaining agreements. Therefore, MWBE participation would then have to occur on the service side of this contract, which includes the facility where the uniforms would be housed, such as cleaning, insurance, and pest control. Depending on the facility that is chosen, there could be even more money for MWBE vendors.

There is discussion over whether this should have been issued a waiver, since it is a commodity- heavy contract.

Demeshia Seals makes a motion to approve, Tracey McCants-Lewis seconds.

PLAN IS APPROVED

III. Resubmittal

- **1805-06** – Mayor’s Office, Communication and Language Access Consultant

Feyisola Alabi, Mayor’s Office City of Pittsburgh, presents the plan. The prime (Bromberg & Associates) is a certified WBE and will be performing 75% of the project. Since last month, Bromberg had reached out to additional MBE firms and provided this documentation, however, they were only able to obtain 5% MBE participation due to the unique requirements of the contract, including knowledge of compliance and legal matters around resettlement and Title XI as it impacts foreign language populations. The other 20% of the project is going to a WBE firm that is working towards obtaining their certification.

There is discussion about whether the prime could have reached out to more MBE firms, including a MBE certified signer. The prime notes that there are no ADA requirements and it is not relevant for this contract, which is for effective communication planning for spoken languages. After some discussion a vote is taken.

Erin Conley makes a motion to approve, Gonzalo Manchego seconds

PLAN IS APPROVED

IV. Chairman's Remarks

Laing updates the Commission on a news article that would be coming out in the Pittsburgh Tribune Review on the Equal Opportunity Review Commission. There is discussion about Council's role and whether the Commission can bring a list of questions and recommendations about recent legislation changes to their attention.

V. Adjournment