

## **Equal Opportunity Review Commission**

### **MINUTES**

Wednesday September 19, 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:** Justin Laing, Demeshia Seals, James Myers, Karen Hall, Erin Conley, Jennie Sweet-Cushman, Gonzalo Manchego

**Call-ins:** Andrea Vasquez

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

### **I.Introduction**

### **II.New Plans**

#### **1809-01- Housing Authority, Bedford Hope Center Improvements Mechanical (Controlled Climate)**

Kim Detrick, Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh, presents the MWBE plan. He notes that this is a rebid with one bidder on the first bid and one on the second. Although there is no MWBE participation, outreach was done to secure a MWBE subcontractor. Detrick also mentions that he provided follow-up to make sure vendors were actually contacted. Additionally, quotes are attached showing that the MBE firm's prices were higher than other firms.

Laing asks Detrick if he talked to the vendor about why the outreach does not specify the specific scope of work they were looking to subcontract out, because the commission brought this up a previous meetings.

Detrick explains that most of this project is self-preformed and the supplies were what Controlled Climate carved out for MWBE participation.

Hall makes a motion to not approve. Laing seconds.

**PLAN IS NOT APPROVED**

Laing notes that moving forward, voting will start with a motion to approve. If no one seconds, it will not pass.

**1809-02- Housing Authority, Fire Alarm Sensitivity Testing Authority Wide (Allegheny Services)**

Kim Detrick, Housing Authority City of Pittsburgh, and representatives from Allegheny Services and Tangiers (WBE), present the MWBE plan. Detrick explains that this contract is for testing fire alarms throughout their communities. One qualified individual will go with a member of HACP staff to test all of the fire alarms for third-party certification. Allegheny Services subcontracted with Tangiers (WBE) to do the administrative portion of this contract.

Manchego makes a motion to approve. Hall seconds.

**PLAN IS APPROVED**

**1809-03-Public Safety (DELTAWRX)**

Laura Meixell, Department of Innovation and Performance, Tony Landolina and Lee Schmidt from Department of Public Safety, present the DELTAWRX MWBE plan.

Seals questions why MWBE firms were determined unqualified when according to the good faith effort checklist, MWBE firms were not provided the plan, specifications, or scope of work. Seals asks what factor determined they were not qualified when they did not know the scope of work.

The representative from DELTAWRX responds by saying they do not know the details of what was sent to those firms, but they were specifically looking for firms with experience in strategic planning and focus group facilitation. He will have to look back through the responses to get a better answer to the question.

Seals makes a motion to approve. Conley seconds. Motion does not carry.

**PLAN IS NOT APPROVED**

**III. Resubmission**

**1808-01- Public Safety, Security Guard Services (St. Moritz Security Services)**

Tony Landolina, Department of Public Safety, and a representative from St. Moritz Security Services presented the MWBE plan. There is no discussion.

Seals makes a motion to approve. Sweet-Cushman seconds.

**PLAN IS APPROVED**

**IV. New Plans**

**1809-04- Department of Mobility and Infrastructure (Digital LLC dba SmartWorks Partners)**

Laura Meixell, Department of Innovation and Performance, presents the MWBE plan for SmartWorks. Meixell notes that because this has been a joint-project between DOMI and I&P, the legislation may come from I&P department.

A representative from SmartWorks says they were able to exceed the goals by utilizing existing partners and may be able to increase some of the work depending on how the scope of the project evolves.

Meyers makes a motion to approve. Conley seconds.

**PLAN IS APPROVED**

**1809-05- Department of Finance, Professional Auditing Services (Maher Duessel)**

Nick Swidzinski, Department of Finance, presents the MWBE plan for Maher Duessel. A representative from Maher Duessel explains that the WBE firm they are utilizing, McGee Maruca & Associates, is very busy during the tax season, and are therefore unable to provide support until May. Additionally, Maher Dussel, as of March, majority women-owned and are going through the process to get certified as a WBE with WBENC, which should conclude by the end of the year.

Sweet-Cushman makes a motion to approve. Conley seconds.

**PLAN IS APPROVED**

**1809-06- Department of Permits, Licensing and Inspections, On Call Geotechnical Services (D'Appolonia)**

Mark Mariani, Department of Permits, Licensing, and Inspections presents the MWBE plan for D'Appolonia.

A representative from D'Appolonia speaks about the nature of the contract being on-call where the distribution of services are uncertain. Typically, D'Appolonia, conducts the engineering work and exploratory drilling, sampling, testing, and surveying is subcontracted out.

Conley makes a motion to approve. Hall seconds.

**PLAN IS APPROVED**

**V.Executive Session**