

AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ORDINANCE

REVISED APPENDIX D

OF THE

METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT

OF GREATER CHICAGO

AS REVISED
May 21, 2020

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OF THE
METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT
OF GREATER CHICAGO

Section 1. Declaration of Policy

Whereas, it is the policy of the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (the "District") to ensure competitive business opportunities for small, minority- and women-owned business enterprises in the award and performance of District contracts, to prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, sex, gender, color, racial group or perceived racial group, disability, age, religion, national origin or ethnicity, sexual orientation, veteran or military discharge status, association with anyone with these characteristics, or any other legally protected characteristic in the award of or participation in District contracts, and to abolish barriers to full participation in District contracts by all person, regardless of race, ethnicity or sex;

Whereas, the District pursuant to its authority under 70 ILCS 2605/11.3, is committed to establishing procedures to implement this policy as well as state and federal regulations to assure the utilization of minority-owned, women-owned and small business enterprises in a manner consistent with constitutional requirements;

Whereas, the District is committed to equal opportunity for minority-, women-owned and small businesses to participate in the award and performance of District contracts;

Whereas, the Supreme Court of the United States in *City of Richmond v. J.A. Croson Co.*, 488 U.S. 469 (1989), has enunciated certain standards that are necessary to maintain effective contracting affirmative action programs in compliance with constitutional requirements;

Whereas, the District is committed to implementing its affirmative action program in conformance with the United States Supreme Court's decision in *Croson* and its progeny;

Whereas, in furtherance of this commitment, the Board of Commissioners directed the District staff and its outside consultants in 1990 to conduct an investigation into the scope of any discrimination in the award of and participation in District construction contracts as well as in the construction industry in Metropolitan Chicago, the extent to which such discrimination or the effects thereof has denied and continues to deny minority and women's business enterprises equal opportunity to participate in District contracts and to recommend the appropriate affirmative action steps to be taken to eliminate any such discrimination and its continuing effects.

Whereas, on June 21, 2001, the District adopted its Revised Appendix D, Notice of Requirements for Affirmative Action Program to Ensure Minority, Small and Women's Business Participation ("Appendix D"); and

Whereas, in 2006 the Board of Commissioners undertook a review of Appendix D, the District's contracting policy and operation under Appendix D and an investigation into the existence of continued discrimination against minority and women-owned businesses in the

Metropolitan Chicago construction industry to evaluate the continued need for Appendix D and any necessary revisions thereto;

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners undertaken a review in 2012 of Appendix D, the District's contracting policy and operation under Appendix D and an investigation into the existence of continued discrimination against minority and women-owned businesses in the Metropolitan Chicago construction industry to evaluate the continued need for Appendix D and any necessary revisions thereto.;

Whereas, the Board of Commissioners undertook a new review in 2014 of Appendix D, the District's contracting policy and operation under Appendix D and an investigation into the existence of continued discrimination against minority- and women-owned businesses in the District's geographic and procurement market areas to evaluate the continued need for Appendix D and any necessary revisions thereto.

Section 2. Findings

The Board of Commissioners, having reviewed the 2015 report of its outside consultant finds:

1. In 2003, the U.S. District Court in *Builders Association of Greater Chicago v. City of Chicago*, 298 F. Supp.2d 725 (N.D. Ill. 2003) held that the evidence introduced at trial demonstrated that past and current discriminatory practices continue to place MBE and WBE firms at a competitive disadvantage in the award of governmental contracts and such practices have and continue to impede the growth and success of MBEs and WBEs.

2. In 2004, a study of the Metropolitan Chicago Construction Industry by Timothy Bates, Distinguished Professor, Wayne State University, concluded that the evidence that African-American, Hispanic and women-owned businesses have been, and continue to be disadvantaged in the construction industry and small businesses is strong, has remained consistent and that compelling evidence indicates that African-American, Hispanic, and women-owned businesses face barriers in the Metropolitan Chicago construction industry greater than those faced by white males.

3. A November, 2005 study of the Metropolitan Chicago construction industry by David Blanchflower, Professor of Economics at Dartmouth College, has determined that discrimination against Asian-owned businesses existed in the business community in areas of business financing and construction wages and that this, together with evidence of individual discrimination against Asian-owned construction companies, leads to the conclusion that discrimination against Asian owned businesses continues to exist in the Metropolitan Chicago construction industry.

4. In 2005, the U.S. District Court held in *Northern Contracting, Inc. v. Illinois Department of Transportation*, 2005 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 19868 (N.D. Ill. Sept. 8, 2005) that there is strong evidence of the effects of past and current discrimination against MBEs and WBEs in the construction industry in the Chicago area.

5. The trial court's decision was affirmed in *Northern Contracting, Inc. v. Illinois Department of Transportation*, 473 F.3d 715 (7th Cir. 2007).

6. In 2006, Cook County, Illinois accepted a report it had commissioned titled, "Review of Compelling Evidence of Discrimination Against Minority-and Women-Owned

Business Enterprise in the Chicago Area Construction Industry and Recommendations for Narrowly Tailored Remedies for Cook County, Illinois” (Cook County 2006 Report), which concluded that there is extensive evidence of discrimination against MBEs and WBEs in the Chicago area construction marketplace, and the participation of MBEs and WBEs in the County’s construction prime contracts and subcontracts is below the availability of such firms.

7. In 2006, the Illinois State Toll Highway Authority commissioned a study for the availability of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises (“DBEs”) in its geographic and procurement markets, to ensure that its DBE program was narrowly tailored as required by constitutional standard, which found 19.56% DBE availability in construction, 19.36% DBE availability in construction-related professional services, and that DBE utilization had steadily increased from 2.40% in 2004 to 24.72% in 2010.

8. Cook County commissioned a new report, entitled “The Status of Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises Relevant to Construction Activity In and Around Cook County, Illinois” (Cook County 2010 Study), which found that MBEs and WBEs were not utilized in all aspects in proportion to their availability.

9. In 2010 the U.S. Department of Justice produced a report to Congress, entitled “Compelling Interest for Race- and Gender-Conscious Federal Contracting Programs: An Update to the May 23, 1996 Review of Barriers to Minority- and Women-Owned Businesses,” that updated the original basis for the U.S. Department of Transportation’s DBE program and concluded that discriminatory barriers continue to impede the ability of MBEs and WBEs to compete with other firms on a fair and equal footing in government contracting markets, including in the construction industry.

10. In 2012, the District commissioned a report on barriers to construction opportunities in the Chicago area market and recommendations for District efforts to reduce such barriers, which found continuing disparities in the Chicago area construction market.

11. In 2014, The District commissioned a report on barriers to equal opportunities in the District’s geographic and industry market areas and recommendations for District efforts to reduce such barriers, which found continuing disparities in the District’s market areas.

12. In 2015, the trial court in *Midwest Fence, Corp. v. U.S. Department of Transportation et al*, 2015 WL 139676 (N.D. Ill. March 24, 2015), held that discrimination continues to impede full and fair opportunities for disadvantaged business enterprise in the Illinois construction industry.

13. The District has determined that it has a continuing compelling interest in preventing public funds in contracts from perpetuating the effects of past discrimination and current discrimination against minority- and women-owned firms in its market.

14. The Affirmative Action Program adopted by the District and amended April 2, 2009 is hereby modified to further continue to ameliorate the effects of racial and gender discrimination in the marketplace.

15. The remedies adopted herein by the District will not overly burden non-MBE and non-WBE firms in the award of District Contracts.

16. The Commissioners shall periodically review minority-owned and women-owned participation in contracts awarded by the District to ensure that the District continues to have a

compelling interest in remedying discrimination against minority and women-owned firms in the award of District contracts and that the measures adopted herein remain narrowly tailored to accomplish that objective.

Now, therefore, the District Board of Commissioners hereby adopts this revised Appendix D:

Section 3. Purpose and Intent

The purpose and intent of this Ordinance is to mitigate the present effects of discrimination on the basis of race, ethnicity or sex in opportunities to participate on the District's prime contracts and associated subcontracts and to achieve equitable utilization of minority-owned, women-owned and small business enterprises in District contracts.

Section 4. Coverage

The following provisions, to be known as "Appendix D" together with relevant forms, shall apply and be appended to every construction contract awarded by the District where the estimated total expenditure is in excess of \$100,000.00, except contracts let in the event of an emergency pursuant to 70 ILCS 2605/11.5.

Section 5. Definitions

The meaning of these terms in this Ordinance are as follows:

- (a) "Administrator" means the District's Affirmative Action Program Administrator.
- (b) "Affiliate" of a person or entity means a person or entity that directly or indirectly through one or more intermediaries, controls or is controlled by, or is under common control with, the person or entity. In determining Affiliation, the District shall consider all appropriate factors, including common ownership, common management, and contractual relationships.
- (c) "Annual Participation Goals" mean the targeted levels established by the District for the annual aggregate participation of MBEs and WBEs in District construction contracts
- (d) "Bidder" means an individual, a business enterprise, including a sole proprietorship, a partnership, a corporation, a not for profit corporation, a limited liability company or any other entity which has submitted a bid on a District contract.
- (e) "Books and Records" include, but are not limited to, payroll records, bank statements, bank reconciliations, accounts payable documents, account receivable documents, ledgers, all financial software, and all employer business tax returns.
- (f) "Contract Specific Goals" means the Goals established for a particular project or contract based upon the availability of MBEs or WBEs in the scope(s) of work of the Project.
- (g) "Construction contract" means any District contract or amendment thereto, providing for a total expenditure in excess of One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$100,000.00) for the construction, demolition, replacement, major repair or renovation and maintenance of real property and improvement thereon or sludge hauling and any other related contract which the District deems appropriate to be subject to Appendix D consistent with the Ordinance.

(h) "Commercially Useful Function" means responsibility for the execution of a distinct element of the work of the contract, which is carried out by actually performing, managing, and supervising the work involved, or fulfilling responsibilities.

(i) "Contract Goals" means the numerical percentage goals for MBE, WBE or SBE participation to be applied to an eligible District construction contract subject to Appendix D for the participation of MBEs, WBEs and SBEs, based upon the scopes of work of the contract, the availability of MBEs, WBEs and SBEs to meet the goals, and the District's progress towards meeting its Annual MBE, WBE and SBE goals.

(j) "Director" means the District's Director of Procurement and Materials Management, formerly known as the Purchasing Agent.

(k) "Economically Disadvantaged" means an individual with a Personal Net Worth less than \$2,000,000.00, indexed annually for the Chicago Metro Area Consumer Price Index, published by the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Standards, beginning January 2008.

(l) "Executive Director" means the chief administrative officer of the District, formerly known as the General Superintendent.

(m) "Expertise" means demonstrated skills, knowledge or ability to perform in the field of endeavor in which certification is sought by the firm as defined by normal industry practices, including licensure where required.

(n) "Good Faith Efforts" means those honest, fair and commercially reasonable actions undertaken by a contractor to meet the MBE or WBE goal, which by their scope, intensity, and appropriateness to the objective, can reasonably be expected to fulfill the Program's goals.

(o) "Hearing Officer" is an attorney licensed to practice in the State of Illinois, appointed by the Board of Commissioners, to conduct hearings as provided in this Ordinance regarding a contractor's compliance or non-compliance with this Ordinance.

(p) "Joint Venture" means an association of two or more persons, or any combination of types of business enterprises and persons numbering two or more, proposing to perform a single for profit business enterprise, in which each Joint Venture partner contributes property, capital, efforts, skill and knowledge, and in which the certified firm is responsible for a distinct, clearly defined portion of the work of the contract and whose share in the capital contribution, control, management, risks, and profits of the Joint Venture are equal to its ownership interest. Joint Ventures must have an agreement in writing specifying the terms and conditions of the relationships between the partners and their relationship and responsibility to the contract.

(q) "Job Order Contract" or "JOC" means a firm, fixed price, indefinite quantity contract designed to complete a large number of construction projects quickly.

(r) "Local business" means a business located within the counties of Cook, DuPage, Kane Lake, McHenry or Will in the State of Illinois or Lake County in the State of Indiana which has the majority of its regular full-time work force located in this region or a business which has been placed on the District's vendor list or has bid on or sought District construction work.

(s) "Minority-owned business enterprise" or "MBE" means a Local Small business entity, including a sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, limited liability company, Joint Venture or any other business or professional entity, which is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned by one or more members of one or more minority groups, or, in the case of a publicly held

corporation, at least fifty-one percent (51%) of the stock of which is owned by one or more members of one or more minority groups, and whose management, policies, major decisions and daily business operations are controlled by one or more Minority Individuals.

(t) "Minority Individual" means a natural person who is a citizen of the United States or lawful permanent resident of the United States and one of the following:

(i) African-American - A person having origins in any of the Black racial groups of Africa and is regarded as such by the African American Community of which the person claims to be a part.

(ii) Hispanic-American - A person having origins from Mexico, Puerto Rico, Cuba and South or Central America and is regarded as such by the Hispanic community of which the person claims to be a part, regardless of race.

(iii) Asian-American - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of the Far East, Southeast Asia, the Indian Subcontinent, or the Pacific Islands or the Northern Marianas, and is regarded as such by the Asian American community of which the person claims to be a part.

(iv) Native-American - A person having origins in any of the original peoples of North America and who is recognized through tribal certification as a Native American by either a tribe or a tribal organization recognized by the Government of the United States of America.

(v) Individual members of other groups whose participation is required under state or federal regulations or by court order.

(vi) Individual members of other groups found by the District to be Socially Disadvantaged by having suffered racial or ethnic prejudice or cultural bias within American society, without regard to individual qualities, resulting in decreased opportunities to compete in the District's marketplace or to do business with the District.

(u) "Personal Net Worth" means the net value of the assets of an individual after total liabilities are deducted. An individual's personal net worth does not include the individual's ownership interest in an applicant or other certified MBE or WBE, provided that the other firm is certified by a governmental agency that meets the District's eligibility criteria or the individual's equity in his or her primary place or residence. As to assets held jointly with his or her spouse or recognized civil partner, an individual's personal net worth includes only that individual's share of such assets. An individual's net worth also includes the present value of the individual's interest in any vested pension plans, individual retirement accounts, or other retirement savings or investment programs less the tax and interest penalties that would be imposed if the asset were distributed at the present time.

(v) "Prime Contractor" means a Contractor that is awarded a District contract and is at risk for the completion of an entire District project, including purchasing all materials, hiring and paying subcontractors, and coordinating all the work.

(w) "Small Business Enterprise" or "SBE" means a small business as defined by the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA), pursuant to the business size standards found in 13 CFR Part 121, relevant to the scope(s) of work the firm seeks to perform on District contracts, except that the size standard for specialty trade construction firms shall be 150 percent of the SBA size standard. A firm is not an eligible SBE in any calendar fiscal year in which its gross receipts, averaged over the firm's previous five fiscal years, exceed the size standards of 13 CFR Part 121.

(x) "Socially Disadvantaged" means a Minority Individual or Woman who has been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice or cultural bias within American society because of his or her identity as a member of a group and without regard to individual qualities. Social disadvantage must stem from circumstances beyond the individual's control. A Socially Disadvantaged individual must be a citizen or lawfully admitted permanent resident of the United States.

(y) "Subcontractor" means a party that enters into a subcontract agreement with a District Prime Contractor to perform work or provide materials on a District project.

(z) "Tier" refers to the relationship of a subcontractor to the prime contractor. A subcontractor having a contract with the prime contractor, including a material supplier to the prime contractor, is considered a "first-tier subcontractor," while a subcontractor's subcontractor is a "second-tier subcontractor" and the subcontractor's material supplier is a "third-tier subcontractor." The subcontractor is subject to the same duties, obligations and sanctions as the contractor under this Ordinance.

(aa) "Utilization Plan" means the plan, in the form specified by the District, which must be submitted by a Bidder listing the MBEs, WBEs and SBE that the Bidder intends to use in the performance of a contract, the scopes of the work and the dollar values or the percentages of the work to be performed.

(bb) "Vendor list" means the District's list of firms that are certified as minority-owned or women-owned by the City of Chicago, the County of Cook, the State of Illinois, the Women's Business Development Center, or the Chicago Minority Business Development Council, or as a Disadvantaged Business Enterprise by the Illinois Unified Certification Program, or as a Small Disadvantaged Business by the U.S. Small Business Administration.

(cc) "Women-owned business enterprise" or "WBE" means a Local and Small business business entity which is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned by one or more women, or, in the case of a publicly held corporation, fifty-one percent (51%) of the stock of which is owned by one or more women, and whose management and daily business operations are controlled by one or more women. Determination of whether a business is at least fifty-one percent (51%) owned by a woman or women shall be made without regard to community property laws.

Section 6. Non-Discrimination and Affirmative Action Clause

As a precondition to selection, a Contractor must include in its bid proposal for a covered contract the following commitments:

During the performance of this contract, the Contractor agrees:

(a) It shall not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, gender, color, racial group or perceived racial group, disability, age, religion, national origin or ethnicity, sexual orientation, veteran or military discharge status, association with anyone with these characteristics, or any other legally protected characteristic in the solicitation for or purchase of goods in the performance of this contract.

(b) It shall actively solicit bids for the purchase or subcontracting of goods or services from qualified MBEs, WBEs and SBEs.

(c) It shall undertake Good Faith Efforts in accordance with the criteria established in this Ordinance, to ensure that qualified MBEs, WBE, and SBEs are utilized in the performance of