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ACA Newsletter

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ACA Wishing You All a Happy and Bountiful New Year!

2019 New Year Celebrations Around Asia!



Japan



Taiwan



China



Malaysia



India



Korea

Disparity Study Contract Postponed for Committee Review

Austin— Austin City Council has postponed voting on a sole-sourced contract worth \$1 million to conduct a new evidenced-based disparity study to validate the continuation of the city's Minority Procurement Program. The last disparity study was commissioned in 2014 through an open and competitive solicitation process, a departure from previous studies where sole-source purchasing was the preferred methodology.

CM Jimmy Flannigan of District Six in the December 13th regular council meeting motioned to move the agenda item to February 21st to allow the item to be reviewed first by the MWBE Advisory Committee.

The item somehow failed to make it on the committee's meeting agenda on December 4th, when the committee met for the first time in eight months. The monthly meetings from April to November all had to be cancelled for lack of quorum. The only other meeting successfully held in 2018 was in March after meetings for the first two months of 2018 were cancelled for the same reason.

The advisory committee is tasked to meet regularly to provide oversight and make recommendations to Council regarding MWBE program initiatives, policies, and procedures.

CM Flannigan also asked that stakeholders meetings be held to gather public feedback before Council will consider moving forward with the contract in February.

Paul Saldaña, former AISD Trustee, the only speaker that had signed up to speak on the topic, said he would like to see the proposal presented to the three Quality of Life Commissions as well.

CM Flannigan thought since the commissions themselves would not be involved in the study, it'd be suitable for the chair of each commission to decide if the item should be discussed on their meeting agenda.

Mayor Adler also commented that since the contract will be awarded as a sole-sourced commission, he would encourage the inclusion of local minority businesses as subcontractors for the project.

Lastly, CM Alison Alter of District 10 would like the city man-

ager to come up with a plan for the sake of transparency to ensure SMBR matters are put through the appropriate council committees and boards and commissions before coming to the full Council.

It is not clear when the MWBE Advisory Committee will meet next time to review the contract, while three outreach meetings have been scheduled quickly in the following order:

Monday January 14—9:30am to 10:30 am
City Hall, Council Chambers—301 W 2nd St., Austin, TX

Thursday, January 24—1:30pm to 2:30pm
Carver Branch Library—1161 Angelina St., Austin, TX

Wednesday, January 30, 2019—6:00pm to 7:00pm
Emma S. Barrientos Mexican American Cultural Center
600 River St., Austin, TX

The draft scope of work of the study will include:

- ◆ Providing statistical evidence of disparities in business enterprise activity in the city's geographic and project markets based on availability and utilization
- ◆ Determining the city's utilization of available MWBE/DBEs, classified by industry, race/ethnicity and gender in the city's geographic and project markets
- ◆ Documenting if there is statistical evidence of disparities in the contracting and subcontracting activities within the city
- ◆ Determining whether and to what extent discrimination exists in the private sector. Identify potential additional industries by commodity code with MWBE availability, not captured in the city's minority procurement program

To view the scope of work in its entirety, please click on [SMBR website](#).

For those who can not attend the meetings, public comment can be sent via email to:

SMBRDisparityStudy@austintexas.gov



Paul Saldaña addressing the Council (left)
CM Jimmy Flannigan making a motion
to postpone item 39)



Meet the New Assistant City Managers



Austin City Manager Spencer Cronk has selected Rodney Gonzales and Chris Shorter as Assistant City Managers in his first steps toward reorganizing the executive team to align with Austin's Strategic Direction. Mr. Gonzales will oversee departments and projects focused on economic opportunity and affordability. Mr. Shorter will manage efforts on health & environment and culture & lifelong learning. The Department of Small and Minority Business Resources (SMBR) will now report to Mr. Gonzales.

"Rodney and Chris stood out amongst the other candidates as people who understand the challenges facing Austin. It was clear to me that they're well-prepared to work with our community and our employees to advance strategies that can address those challenges in a way that aligns with our priorities," said Cronk. "Both of them are ready to hit the ground running."

Rodney Gonzales comes to the Assistant City Manager role having served in leadership roles in Development Services and Economic Development for the City of Austin over the past 12 years. Mr. Gonzales began his career in finance, serving as the Director of Finance for the cities of San Marcos and Luling, TX. He holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration and a Bachelor's degree from Texas State University.



Christopher J. Shorter has served in leadership roles for the District of Columbia (DC) Government for the past 10 years. Most recently he has been the district's Director of Public Works which provides environmental services and solid waste management for residents. He has also held roles as Chief Operating Officer (COO) for DC's Department of Health and as COO and Chief of Staff for the district's Department of Youth Rehabilitation Services. Mr. Shorter received a Master of Public Administration degree from the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public & International Affairs and a Bachelor of Science degree in economics from Florida Agricultural & Mechanical University in Tallahassee, Florida.

This process started in late July when Cronk issued a memo outlining the restructuring of the City Manager's Office around outcomes articulated in the Strategic Direction 2023. His memo detailed the process for an open recruitment for four Assistant City Manager positions and one Deputy City Manager, beginning this Fall with the recruitment of these two positions.

In September, a survey was released to the public asking them to identify the skills and characteristics they felt were most important for City leaders to possess. The response to the survey helped build the job posting and candidate profiles. Cronk solicited additional feedback in September from the quality of life groups and with community groups related to the areas of responsibility on which each Assistant City Manager will focus. This information was used to inform Cronk's selection.

"The feedback I received at the start of the process has been invaluable in identifying leaders whose background and approach will align with the expectations of our community moving forward," Cronk noted, adding his recognition for those who have served in interim roles during the search. "Both Sara Hensley and Joe Pantalion deserve thanks and credit for the seamless leadership they've provided. They're an example of the incredible skill and deep professional depth we have here at the city."

Hensley and Pantalion will return to their jobs as Director of the Parks and Recreation Department and Watershed Protection Department, respectively.

The recruitment for the next two Assistant City Managers, overseeing **Mobility** and **Safety**, opened on November 20. The search for a Deputy City Manager is slated to begin in Spring 2019. — Communication and Public Information office



ANNUAL CELEBRATING DIVERSITY IN CONTRACTING RECOGNIZES PRIME AND MINORITY CONTRACTORS OF THE YEAR

Austin— The annual Celebrating Diversity in Contracting hosted by the Department of Small and Minority Business Resources was held on October 25th, 2018, at the New Central Library in downtown Austin. The event recognizes city contractors and consultants for their meaningful engagement and participation in the city's Minority and Women Procurement Program. Elected officials attending the ceremony were Mayor Steve Adler, CM Ora Houston, and CM Jimmy Flannigan. This is a celebration retiring CM Ora Houston faithfully supported and attended each year since elected into office four years ago. Recently appointed City Manager Spencer Cronk was also there to congratulate all the awardees and spur city staff on in their efforts to diversify city contracting.

Here are this year's winners. Prime Contractor: SpawGlass Contractors Inc; Prime Consultant: HDR Engineering, Inc.; Asian Small Business: DHL Analytical, Inc; African American Small Business: Haynes-Eaglin-Waters, LLC; Hispanic Small Business: The Rios Group, Inc.; Women-Owned Small Business: Stephanie Braun Clayton LLC/Stephanie Braun Clayton Photography

Photos by Khandy's Kamera

