



NOTICE

**Business Enterprise Council
CERTIFICATION SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
Monday, March 22, 2021
1:30 pm – 3:30 pm
Location: Webex Meeting**

MINUTES

I. Welcome

Carlos Gutierrez welcomed everyone to the meeting.

II. Call to Order

Arielle Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:31 pm. Carlos Gutierrez proceeded with roll call.

III. Roll Call

Roll call was conducted. Quorum was established.

BEP Certification Subcommittee				
ATTENDANCE ROSTER: COUNCIL MEMBERS				
Members	Present			Absent
	In person Chicago	In person Springfield	via WebEx	
Bola Delano			x	
Jaime DiPaulo				x
Larry Ivory			x	



Andrew Johnson			x	
Sharron Matthews			x	
Edward McKinnie				x
Tracy Sullivan			x	

Note: Meeting was held via WebEx video conference to adhere to the social distancing guidelines, due to the COVID -19/Coronavirus pandemic.

Agency Representatives

BEP Certification Subcommittee				
ATTENDANCE ROSTER: Agency Representatives				
Agency	Representative	Present		
		In person - Chicago	In person - Springfield	via WebEx
Central Management Services	Kori Acosta			
	Carlos Gutierrez			
	Paul Kuchuris			
	Radhika Lakhani			
	Julie Langrehr			
	Nicole Mandeville			

Total: 6 CMS and other Agency Employees attended this meeting.

Mr. Gutierrez provided updates on the Certification Division while waiting on Members to complete the login process. He stated that most FastTrack submissions came from City of Chicago vendors, although



some vendors hold both Cook County and City of Chicago certifications. Mr. Gutierrez said their goal is to increase by 1500 by the end of the year and are seeking collaboration.

Ms. Johnson reported that the Business Enterprise Program (BEP) is trending higher on Key Performance Indicators than the same period last year. She opened the floor to new Members for brief introductions.

Mr. Andrew Johnson introduced himself as the Executive Director of the Native American Chamber of Commerce of Illinois. He said it was much appreciated and very well received to get the news to be a part of this group. Mr. Johnson stated he was the Executive Director at the American Indian Center which was the impetus to begin the chamber of commerce and they look forward to build upon that.

Ms. Tracy Sullivan introduced herself as Assistant Vice President of Procurement at Governor's State University. She noted having worked with various members of the council at different times and that it is nice to be working with them in a more formal capacity. Ms. Sullivan acknowledged having big shoes to fill and thanked her friend and colleague Sharla Roberts for her encouraging words about each of them.

IV. Posted Business

a. Approval of the Minutes for January 25, 2021 BEP Certification Subcommittee Meeting

Member Delano motioned to approve the minutes from January 25, 2021. Member Matthews seconded. Members Johnson and Sullivan abstained. All other Members agreed. The minutes were approved.

b. Appeals:

1. REX Electric & Technologies, LLC
 - a. Mr. Gutierrez gave a brief overview of REX Electric & Technologies, LLC. He stated they are over the \$75 million cap and did not provide contract information.
 - b. Member Johnson requested as a topic for further discussion the way the State views Alaskan Native Corporations.
 - c. Mr. Peter Andersen and Kevin Blackman were given the floor.
 - d. Mr. Andersen greeted everyone from Anchorage, Alaska. He shared that the idea of the Alaska Native Corporation (ANC) as something that the subcommittee is not used to hearing about or considering.



- e. Mr. Andersen said he is the Senior Vice President. He outlined that the federal government recognizes them as a minority, disadvantaged business. Mr. Andersen stated that ANC stock is inalienable, meaning it cannot be bought or sold and in order to be issued stock you have to prove direct ties to the Chugach region by heritage and lineage to its land and people.
 - f. Mr. Andersen detailed that in addition to jobs, the dividend cash payments go to special elder dividend payments, scholarships, internships, apprenticeships, community and regional development, repatriation of artifacts scattered across the world, and more.
 - g. Mr. Andersen outlined their five core values; they do things the right way, they create meaningful value, they empower people, they build community, and they leave things better than they found them. He thanked the subcommittee.
2. Powers & Sons Constructions Co., Inc
- a. Ms. Kelly Powers Baria stated that the company exceeded the cap in 2017 and were here today to request an exception to the rule to participate in a particular project for construction management services. She explained this would enable them to regain minority staff lost due to the impact of COVID-19.
 - b. Ms. Powers Baria explained that her grandfather started the company in the 1940's because a black home builder gave him a chance. She said they seek to give other minorities, women, people with disabilities the same chance that was given to her grandfather so many years ago and they actively recruit diverse job candidates. Ms. Powers Baria thanked the subcommittee for their time and consideration.
 - d. Member Ivory stated he is very familiar with Powers & Sons Construction Co. and that they have done an outstanding job.

Member Matthews motioned to move to executive session to discuss the appeals presented today. Member Ivory seconded the motion. The motion passed. The meeting was moved to Executive Session.

Deliberations were held, votes taken, and the following recommendations were made:

- **REX Electric & Technologies, LLC** – Recommended to allow for the over the cap exception
- **Powers & Sons Constructions Co., Inc.** – Recommended to approve to participate in the CDB contract



c. Certification Subcommittee Chair Discussion and Vote

- i. Ms. Johnson stated that they are now open to Chair nominations from all subcommittee members.
- ii. Member Matthews stated that with this change she would like to defer chair nominations to the next meeting.
- iii. Member Ivory stated they should bring this matter to the Full Council.

Member Delano motioned that the vote for Chair be deferred. Member Johnson seconded. All agreed. The motion was carried.

Member Matthews motioned that Member Ivory serve as temporary Chair until a permanent chair is selected. Member Sullivan seconded. All agreed. The motion was carried.

Member Delano explained that another issue that also needs to be discussed and is often brought up by constituents is that of Illinois contracts going to out of state firms. Member Matthews underscored that this was the intent of the legislation.

V. Upcoming Business Enterprise Council & Subcommittee meeting dates:

- Next Council Meeting – Monday, April 26, 2021
- Next Certification Subcommittee Meeting – Monday, May 24, 2021
- Next Outreach Subcommittee Meeting – Tuesday, May 25, 2021
- Next Compliance Subcommittee Meeting – Wednesday, May 26, 2021

VI. Public / Vendor Testimony

Ms. Johnson asked if there was public/vendor testimony. There was none.

VII. Adjournment

Member Matthews moved to adjourn. Member Delano seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.