



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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June 1, 2021

The Honorable Claudia Balducci

Chair, King County Council

Room 1200

C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Balducci:

This letter transmits a proposed ordinance that, if enacted, will help transform King County's Contracting Opportunities Program ("Program") into one that is pro-equity and amplifies the participation of minority and women owned businesses (MWBEs) in King County's contracting opportunities. The proposed ordinance would enable any contractor that is certified by the State of Washington as an MWBE to be automatically eligible as a small contractor and supplier (SCS) under the County's Program.

It is clear from our equity and social justice work that MWBE firms face challenges in public contracting. We are committed to addressing these challenges and making it easier for MWBEs to contract with King County. This "reciprocal certification" program with the State is expected to expand the number of MWBE firms eligible for County contracting opportunities and eliminate redundancy in certification processes that have overlapping eligibility criteria.

Currently, King County and the State's Office of Minority and Women Business Enterprises (OMWBE) have different eligibility size standards for small business certification. King County's size standards are set at 50 percent of the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) size standards. The OMWBE size standards are equal to 100 percent of the SBA size standards. To implement a reciprocal certification program requires that the County amend its Program ordinance to match with the OMWBE's size standards.

The proposed ordinance is also part of a series of actions highlighted in a recently signed Executive Order (CON-7-28-EO) that focuses on pro-equity contracting. The Executive Order has been endorsed by representatives of several community organizations including Tabor 100, the Black Coalition of Contractors and Professionals, the Northwest Mountain

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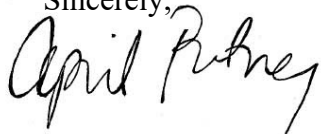
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Minority Suppliers Development Council, and the National Association of Minority Contractors-Washington.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed ordinance. This legislation furthers the King County Strategic Plan objective to align funding, policy, and operational goals of King County government with community priorities. It also supports the County's Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan by focusing on pro-equity contracting.

If your staff have any questions about the proposed ordinance, please contact Sandy Hanks, Contracts Compliance Manager, at 206-263-9717.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine
King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers
ATTN: Carolyn Busch, Chief of Staff
Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council
Shannon Braddock, Deputy Chief of Staff, KCEO
Karan Gill, Director, Council Relations, KCEO
Dwight Dively, Director, Office of Performance, Strategy, and Budget
Caroline Whalen, Director, County Administrative Office, Department of Executive Services (DES)
Ken Guy, Director, Finance and Business Operations Division (FBOD), DES
Sandy Hanks, Contracts Compliance Manager, FBOD, DES