

**AFFIRMATIVE ACTION ORDINANCE**  
**REVISED APPENDIX D**  
**OF THE**  
**METROPOLITAN WATER RECLAMATION DISTRICT**  
**OF GREATER CHICAGO**

~~December 2, 2021~~ April 21, 2022

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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 (7<sup>th</sup> 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



this contract and share in the total dollar value of the contract in accordance with each of the applicable utilization goals established by the District for the participation of qualified MBEs, WBEs and SBEs.

(d) It shall require its subcontractors to make similar good faith efforts to utilize qualified MBEs, WBEs and SBEs.

(e) It shall maintain records and furnish the District all information and reports required by the District for monitoring its compliance with this Ordinance.

(f) It shall designate a person to act as an Affirmative Action Coordinator to facilitate the review of all concerns related to the participation MBEs, WBEs and SBEs.

#### **Section 7. Race- and Gender- Neutral Measures to Ensure Equal Opportunities for All Contractors and Subcontractors**

The District shall develop and use measures to facilitate the participation of all firms in District construction contracting activities. These measures shall include, but are not limited to:

(a) Unbundling contracts to facilitate the participation of MBEs, WBEs and ~~SBEs~~ as Prime Contractors.

(b) Arranging solicitation times for the presentations of bids, specifications, and delivery schedules to facilitate the participation of interested contractors and subcontractors.

(c) Providing timely information on contracting procedures, bid preparation and specific contracting opportunities, including through an electronic system and social media.

(d) Assisting MBEs, WBEs and SBEs with training seminars on the technical aspects of preparing a bid for a District contract.

(e) Providing assistance to businesses in overcoming barriers such as difficulty in obtaining bonding and financing, and support for business development such as accounting, bid estimation, safety requirements, quality control.

(f) Prohibiting Prime Contractors from requiring bonding for subcontractors, where appropriate.

(g) Holding pre-bid conferences, where appropriate, to explain the contract and to encourage Bidders to use all available firms as subcontractors.

(h) Adopting prompt payment procedures, including, requiring by contract that Prime Contractors promptly pay subcontractors and investigating complaints or charges of excessive delay in payments.

(i) Developing Linked Deposit and other financing and bonding assistance programs to assist small firms.

(j) Reviewing retainage, bonding and insurance requirements and their application to bid calculations to eliminate unnecessary barriers to contracting with the District.

(k) Collecting information from Prime Contractors on District construction contracts detailing the bids received from all subcontractors for District contracts and the expenditures to subcontractors utilized by Prime Contractors on District construction contracts.

(l) Prohibiting Prime Contractors from self-performance as an MBE, ~~or~~ WBE or SBE. ~~Limiting the self-performance of prime contractors, where appropriate.~~

(m) To the extent practicable, developing future policies to award contracts to SBEs.

(n) Maintaining information on all firms bidding on District prime contracts and subcontracts.

(o) At the discretion of the Board of Commissioners, awarding a representative sample of District contracts without goals, to determine MBE, WBE and SBE utilization in the absence of goals.

(p) Referring complaints of discrimination against MBEs, WBEs or SBEs to the appropriate authority for investigation and resolution.

## **Section 8. Certification Eligibility**

(a) Only businesses that meet the criteria for certification as a MBE, WBE or SBE may be eligible for credit towards meeting Utilization Contract Goals. The applicant has the burden of production and persuasion by a preponderance of the evidence at all stages of the certification process.

(b) Only a firm owned by a Socially and Economically Disadvantaged person(s) may be certified as a MBE or WBE.

(i) The firm's ownership by a Socially and Economically Disadvantaged person(s) must be real, substantial, and continuing, going beyond *pro forma* ownership of the firm as reflected in ownership documents. The owner(s) must enjoy the customary incidents of ownership and share in the risks and profits commensurate with that ownership interest.

(ii) The contributions of capital or Expertise by the Socially and Economically Disadvantaged owner(s) to acquire the ownership interest must be real and substantial. If Expertise is relied upon as part of a Socially and Economically Disadvantaged owner's contribution to acquire ownership, the Expertise must be of the requisite quality generally recognized in a specialized field, in areas critical to the firm's operations, indispensable to the firm's potential success, specific to the type of work the firm performs and documented in the firm's records. The individual whose Expertise is relied upon must have a commensurate financial investment in the firm.

(c) Only a firm that is managed and controlled by a Socially and Economically Disadvantaged person(s) may be certified as a MBE or WBE.

(i) A firm must not be subject to any formal or informal restrictions that limit the customary discretion of the Socially and Economically Disadvantaged owner(s). There can be no restrictions through corporate charter provisions, by-law provisions, contracts or any other formal or informal devices that prevent the Socially and Economically Disadvantaged owner(s), without the cooperation or vote of any non-Socially and Economically Disadvantaged person, from making any business decision of the firm, including the making of obligations or the dispersing of funds.

(ii) The Socially and Economically Disadvantaged owner(s) must possess the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of the firm and to make day-to-day as well as long term decisions on management, policy, operations and work.

(iii) The Socially and Economically Disadvantaged owner(s) may delegate various areas of the management or daily operations of the firm to persons who are not Socially and Economically Disadvantaged. Such delegations of authority must be revocable, and the Socially and Economically Disadvantaged owner(s) must retain the power to hire and fire any such person. The Socially and Economically Disadvantaged owner(s) must actually exercise control over the firm's operations, work, management and policy.

(iv) The Socially and Economically Disadvantaged owner(s) must have an overall understanding of, and managerial and technical competence, experience and Expertise, directly related to the firm's operations and work. The Socially and Economically Disadvantaged owner(s) must have the ability to intelligently and critically evaluate information presented by

other participants in the firm's activities and to make independent decisions concerning the firm's daily operations, work, management, and policymaking.

(v) If federal, state and/or local laws, regulations or statutes require the owner(s) to have a particular license or other credential to own and/or control a certain type of firm, then the Socially and Economically Disadvantaged owner(s) must possess the required license or credential. If state law, District ordinance or other law regulations or statute does not require that the owner possess the license or credential, that the owner(s) lacks such license or credential is a factor, but is not dispositive, in determining whether the Socially and Economically Disadvantaged owner(s) actually controls the firm.

(vi) A Socially and Economically Disadvantaged owner cannot engage in outside employment or other business interests that conflict with the management of the firm or prevent the owner from devoting sufficient time and attention to the affairs of the firm to manage and control its day to day activities.

(d) Only an independent firm may be certified as a MBE, WBE or SBE. An independent firm is one whose viability does not depend on its relationship with another firm. Recognition of an applicant as a separate entity for tax or corporate purposes is not necessarily sufficient to demonstrate that a firm is independent and non-Affiliated. In determining whether an applicant is an independent business, the Director will:

i) Evaluate relationships with non-certified firms in such areas as personnel, facilities, equipment, financial and/or bonding support, and other resources.

(ii) Consider whether present or recent employer/employee relationships between the Socially and Economically Disadvantaged owner(s) of the applicant for MBE or WBE certification or any owners of the applicant for SBE ~~certificaiton~~ certification and non-certified firms or persons associated with non-certified firms compromise the applicant's independence.

(iii) Examine the applicant's relationships with non-certified firms to determine whether a pattern of exclusive or primary dealings with non-certified firm compromises the applicant's independence.

(iv) Consider the consistency of relationships between the applicant and non-certified firms with normal industry practice.

(e) An applicant shall be certified only for specific types of work in which the Socially and Economically Disadvantaged owner(s) for MBEs and WBEs or the majority owner for SBEs has the ability and Expertise to manage and control the firm's operations and work.

~~(f) The District shall certify the eligibility of Joint Ventures involving MBEs, WBEs or SBEs and non-certified firms.~~

(g) The certification status of all MBEs, WBEs and SBEs shall be reviewed periodically by the Administrator. Failure of the firm to seek recertification by filing the necessary documentation with the Administrator as provided by rule may result in decertification.

(h) It is the responsibility of the certified firm to notify the Administrator of any change in its circumstances affecting its continued eligibility. Failure to do so may result in the firm's decertification.

(i) The Administrator shall decertify a firm that does not continuously meet the eligibility criteria.

(j) Decertification by another agency shall create a *prima facie* case for decertification by the District. The challenged firm shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the evidence that its District certification should be maintained.

(k) A firm that has been denied certification or recertification or has been decertified may protest the denial or decertification by filing a written appeal with the Executive Director within

10 calendar days of receipt of the denial of District certification, recertification or decertification. The appeal should set forth in detail the facts upon which it is based, and attach all relevant documentations. The Executive Director shall render a decision within 15 calendar days of receipt of a timely appeal. The Executive Director's decision shall be final.

(l) A firm found to be ineligible may not apply for certification for two years after the effective date of the final decision.

#### **Section 9. Schedule of Goals for Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise Utilization**

In fulfillment of its policy to provide MBEs, WBEs, and SBEs full and equitable opportunities to participate in the District's prime contracts and subcontracts, the District shall establish annually goals for MBE, WBE and SBE participation, based on the availability of MBEs and WBEs in the District's geographic and procurement market.

#### **Section 10. Contract Goals.**

(a) The Director, in consultation with the Administrator and the User Department, shall establish Contract Goals for construction contracts based upon the availability of at least three MBEs and three WBEs registered on the District's vendor list to perform the anticipated contracting functions of the contract and the District's utilization of MBEs and WBEs to date.

(b) Where a substantial portion of the total construction contract cost is for the purchase of equipment, the Director may designate goals for only that portion of the contract relating to construction work and related supplies and/or modify the limitations on the credit for M/WBE suppliers herein.

(c) The Contract Goal(s) shall be designated in the contract documents.

#### **Section 11. Counting MBE, WBE, and SBE Participation towards Contract Goals**

(a) A Bidder may achieve the Utilization Contract Goals ~~by its status as a MBE, WBE or SBE or by entering into a Joint Venture with one or more MBEs, WBEs and SBEs or~~ by first-tier subcontracting a portion of the work to one or more MBEs, WBEs and SBEs or by direct purchase of materials or services from one or more MBEs, WBEs and SBEs or by any combination of the above.

(b) If a firm is certified as both a MBE and a WBE, the Bidder may count the firm's participation either toward the achievement of its MBE or WBE goal, but not both.

(c) A Bidder may count toward the achievement of its SBE goal the utilization of any MBE or WBE that also satisfies the definition of a SBE.

(d) A Bidder may count the entire amount of that portion of a contract that is performed by MBEs, WBEs or SBEs own forces, including the cost of supplies and materials obtained and installed by the MBE, WBE or SBE for the work of the contract, and supplies purchased or equipment leased by the MBE, WBE or SBE used to directly perform the work of the contract (except supplies and equipment the MBE, WBE or SBE purchases or leases from the Prime Contractor or the Prime Contractor's Affiliate).

~~(e) Where a Bidder or first tier subcontractor engages in a Joint Venture to meet the Contract Goal, the Administrator shall review the profits and losses, initial capital investment,~~

~~actual participation of the Joint Venture in the performance of the contract with its own forces and for which it is separately at risk, and other pertinent factors of the joint venture, which must be fully disclosed and documented in the Utilization Plan in the same manner as for other types of participation, to determine the degree of MBE, WBE or SBE participation that will be credited towards the Contract Goal. The Joint Venture's Utilization Plan must evidence how it will meet the goal or document the Bidder's Good Faith Efforts to do so. The Administrator has the authority to review all records pertaining to Joint Venture agreements before and after the award of a contract in order to assess compliance with this Ordinance. The MBE, WBE or SBE Joint Venture partner must have a history of proven expertise in performance of a specific area of work and will not be approved for performing only general management of the Joint Venture. The specific work activities for which the MBE, WBE or SBE Joint Venture partner will be responsible and the assigned individuals must be clearly designated in the Joint Venture Agreement. The Joint Venture must submit to the Administrator quarterly work plans, including scheduling dates of the tasks. The Administrator must approve the quarterly plans for the MBE, WBE or SBE Joint Venture partner's participation to be credited towards the Contract Goals.~~

(ef) Only the participation of MBEs, WBEs or SBEs that will perform as first-tier subcontractors will be counted towards meeting the Utilization Contract Goals.

(fg) Only expenditures to a MBE, WBE or SBE that is performing a Commercially Useful Function shall be counted towards the Utilization Contract Goal.

(i) A firm is considered to perform a commercially useful function when it is responsible for execution of a distinct element of the work of a contract and carries out its responsibilities by actually performing, managing, and supervising the work involved. The firm must pay all costs associated with personnel, materials and equipment. The firm must be formally and directly responsible for the employment, supervision and payment of its workforce must own and /or lease equipment, and must be responsible for negotiating price, determining quality and quantity and paying for and ordering materials used. The firm cannot share employees with the Prime Contractor or its Affiliates. No payments for use of equipment or materials by the firm can be made through deductions by the Prime Contractor. No family members who own related businesses are allowed to lease, loan or provide equipment, employees or materials to the firm.

(ii) A firm does not perform a commercially useful function if its role is limited to that of an extra participant in a transaction through which funds are passed in order to obtain the appearance of MBE, WBE or SBE participation. The Prime Contractor is responsible for ensuring that the firm is performing a commercially useful function.

(iii) The District will evaluate the amount of work subcontracted, industry practices, whether the amount the MBE, WBE or SBE is to be paid under the contract is commensurate with the work it is actually performing and other relevant factors.

(iv) If a firm subcontracts a greater portion of the work of a contract than would be expected based on normal industry practice, it is presumed not to perform a Commercially Useful Function. When a firm is presumed not to be performing a Commercially Useful Function, the firm may present evidence to rebut this presumption.

(gh) Credit towards the Contract Goals will be allowed only for those direct services performed or materials supplied by ~~MBEs, WBEs or SBEs or~~ first-tier subcontractor MBEs, WBEs or SBEs must perform no less than eighty-five percent (85%) of their work with their own

forces, through the use of its own management and supervision, employees and equipment. If industry standards and practices differ, the firm must furnish supporting documentation for consideration by the District.

(h) Purchase of materials and supplies must be pre-approved if their purchase is related to goal attainment. Bidder may count payments to MBE, WBE or SBE regular dealers or manufacturers who offer only furnish and deliver contracts for materials and supplies for no more than twenty-five percent (25%) of each MBE, WBE or SBE goal, unless approved by the Administrator. If the bidder exceeds the supplier exception amount allowable as stated in the bid documents, the bid will be viewed as non-responsive.

(i) A dealer is a firm that owns, operates, or maintains a store, warehouse, or other establishment in which the materials or supplies required for performance of the contract are bought, kept in stock, and regularly sold to the public in the usual course of business. To be a regular dealer, the firm must engage in, as its principal business, and in its own name, the purchase and sale of the products in question. A regular dealer in such bulk items as steel, cement, gravel, stone, and petroleum products need not keep such products in stock, if it owns or operates distribution equipment. Brokers and packagers shall not be regarded as manufacturers or regular dealers within the meaning of this section. A manufacturer is a firm that operates or maintains a factory or establishment that produces on the premises the materials or supplies obtained by the Bidder.

(j) If a firm ceases to be a certified during its performance on a contract, the dollar value of work performed under a contract with that firm after it has ceased to be certified shall not be counted.

(k) In determining achievement of Utilization Contract Goals, the participation of a MBE, WBE or SBE shall not be counted until that amount has been paid to the MBE, WBE or SBE.

## **Section 12. Utilization Plan Submission**

(a) Compliance documents must be submitted as provided in the solicitation. Failure to do so will render the bid non-responsive. The Director shall review each bid submission to determine if it meets the requirements herein.

(b) A Bidder must either meet the Utilization Contract Goals or establish its Good Faith Efforts to do so as described in Appendix D and the solicitation.

(c) Each Bidder shall submit with its bid a completed and signed Utilization Plan that lists the names, addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and a description of the work with contract item number and contact person of the businesses intended to be used as subcontractors, subconsultants and suppliers, including those firms proposed to meet the Contract Goal(s); the type of work or service each business will perform; and the dollar amount to be allocated to the certified firm(s). Each Bidder's Utilization Plan shall commit to MBE, WBE or SBE participation equal to or greater than each of the Contract Goals set forth in the solicitation, unless the Bidder requests a partial or total waiver of the requirement that it file a Utilization Plan or achieve a particular goal by submitting with the bid a signed Waiver Request in the form specified in the solicitation.

(d) Each Bidder must submit with its bid a signed M/W/SBE Subcontractor's Letter of Intent for each firm in the form specified in the solicitation, with either a copy of each MBE,

WBE or SBEs current Letter of Certification from a state or local government or agency or documentation demonstrating that the firm is a MBE, WBE or SBE within the meaning of this Appendix D. In the event of a conflict between the amounts stated on the Utilization Plan and the M/W/SBE Subcontractor's Letter of Intent, the terms stated on the Utilization Plan shall control. An original or facsimile copy of the M/W/SBE Subcontractor's Letter of Intent will be acceptable.

(e) Where a Bidder had failed to meet the Contract Goal(s), it must file a Waiver request documenting its Good Faith Efforts to meet the Goal(s) as provided in the format described in the solicitation, the Administrator shall require the contractor to file a Contractor Information Form and provide additional documentation of its good faith efforts in attempting to fulfill such goals.

(i) Such Good Faith Efforts, as defined herein, shall include, but are not limited to, the following:

(i) Attend any pre-bid conference conducted by the District to acquaint contractors with MBEs, WBEs and SBEs available to provide relevant goods and services and to inform MBEs, WBEs and SBEs of subcontract opportunities on the contract;

(ii) Review lists of available MBEs, WBEs and SBEs maintained by the District and other state and local governments and agencies prior to the bid opening to identify qualified MBEs, WBEs and SBEs for solicitation for bids;

(iii) Advertise, not less than 15 calendar days before the bid opening date, in one or more daily newspapers and/or trade publications, for proposals or bids by MBEs, WBEs and SBEs for subcontracts or the supply of goods and services on the contract;

(iv) Make timely written solicitations of available MBEs, and WBEs and SBEs identified on the District's vendor list that provide relevant services for subcontracts or the supply of goods and services;

(v) Provide MBEs, WBEs and SBEs with convenient and timely opportunities to review and obtain relevant plans, specifications or terms and conditions of the contract to enable such MBEs, WBEs and SBEs to prepare an informed response to a contractor solicitation;

(vi) Divide total contract requirements into small tasks or quantities and adjust performance bond and insurance requirements or otherwise assist MBEs, WBEs and SBEs in obtaining the required bonding, insurance or financing, where economically feasible, to encourage participation of MBEs, WBEs and SBEs;

(vii) Follow up initial solicitation of MBEs, WBEs and SBEs by contacting them to determine if the enterprises are interested in making bids or proposals;

(viii) Negotiate in good faith with MBEs, WBEs and SBEs prior to the bid opening and do not reject as unsatisfactory any bids or proposals submitted by M/WBEs without justifiable reason, including the lack of bonding capacity or the ability to obtain insurance requirements such as Completed Builders Risk (All Risk) Insurance, Comprehensive General Liability Insurance, Contractor Contractual Liability Insurance and Public Liability Insurance;

(ix) Establish delivery schedules, where the requirements of the work permit, which will encourage participation by MBEs, WBEs and SBEs;



~~(x) Establish joint ventures with MBEs, WBEs and SBEs;~~

(xi) Use the services and assistance of the District, the Small Business Administration, the Office of Minority Business Enterprises of the U.S. Department of Commerce and appropriate community and minority and women's business organizations;

(ii) Failure of a Bidder to provide requested information to the Administrator or to cooperate with the Administrator's investigation, may be grounds for the rejection of a bid and/or a Waiver request.

(iii) Upon completion of the investigation, the Administrator shall inform the Director of his or her findings.

(iv) The Director, after consultation with the Administrator, shall determine whether to grant the Waiver request based on the Bidder's Good Faith Efforts at the time of bid submission.

(v) Where the Director determines that a Bidder has not made Good Faith Efforts, the Director shall declare the bid submission non-responsive and will reject the bid.

(d) A contractor's submission of a Utilization Plan that commits to a M/WBE participation equal to or greater than the applicable utilization goals shall not provide a basis for a higher bid, an increase in contract price or a later change order.

(e) The requirement to submit a Utilization Plan and M/WBE Subcontractor's Letters of Intent applies when the individual project is awarded under Job Order Contracts awarded by the District.

(i) A Prime Contractor issued a Job Order Contract shall submit with each work order issued under such a Contract its Utilization Plan that lists the name, address, telephone number, email address and contact person for each M/W/SBE to be used on the work order, as well as a description of work to be performed and a dollar amount to be allocated to such M/W/SBE. The Prime Contractor shall submit with each work order a M/W/SBE Subcontractor's Letter of Intent from each certified firm.

(ii) A Prime Contractor awarded a Job Order Contract shall be subject to the compliance monitoring provisions herein. The Prime Contractor must submit to the Administrator monthly documentation, as specified by the Administrator, demonstrating that the Contractor has attained the Contract Goals for the completed portion of the Job Order Contract, or that it has been unable to do so despite its good faith efforts. Good Faith efforts must be documented as provided in this Ordinance

### **Section 13. Compliance Review**

(a) The Director shall declare the bid submission non-responsive if a Bidder:

(i) Failed to submit with its bid a completed and signed Utilization Plan;

(ii) Failed to commit in its Utilization Plan to MBE, WBE and SBE participation equal to or greater than each of the Utilization Contract Goals unless the Bidder submitted with its bid a request for a total or partial waiver of the Goal(s).



(iii) Failed to identify in its Utilization Plan the MBE, WBE or SBE by name, scope of work, contract item number, and dollar value of work or percentage of participation equal to or greater than each of the Contract Goal(s).

(iv) Failed to submit with its bid the M/W/SBE Subcontractor's Letter of Intent from each MBE, WBE and SBE listed on its Utilization Plan.

(b) Where, after consultation with the Administrator, the Director determines that Utilization Plan submitted by a Bidder is false or fraudulent, the bid shall be rejected or, if the determination is made after the bid award, the contract may be forfeited in accordance with the provision of Article 28 of the General Conditions.

(c) If a Mentor-Protégé relationship is proposed to meet the Contract Goal, the Mentor-Protégé Development Plan must be submitted to the Administrator for approval prior to contract award. "Mentor-Protégé relationship" describes an association between large business prime contractor firms and socially disadvantaged firms designed to motivate, encourage and to provide mutually beneficial developmental assistance to those socially disadvantaged firms.

(d) Prior to the award of any contract, the Administrator shall review the Utilization Plan, M/W/SBE Subcontractor's Letter(s) of Intent and Letter(s) of Certification, and Contractor Information and Waiver Request Forms as specified in the solicitation, submitted by the apparent low bidder on a contract and conduct any other investigation the Administrator deems appropriate to determine compliance.

(e) Within 30 calendar days after demand, the Prime Contractor shall furnish executed copies of all MBE, WBE and SBE subcontracts to the Administrator. Subsequently, the contractor shall obtain and submit a copy of all MBE, WBE and SBE subtier contracts on demand.

(f) The Prime Contractor shall set timetables for use of its subcontractors before fifty percent (50%) of the work is completed.

(g) If requested by the Administrator, the Prime Contractor must submit a MBE, WBE and SBE Work Plan projecting the work tasks associated with certified firms' commitments prior to the award of the contract. The Work Plan must provide a description of the work to be subcontracted to other MBEs, WBEs and SBEs and non-certified firms and the dollar amount and the name of the all tiers of subcontractors. The Work Plan becomes part of the Prime Contractor's contractual commitment and the contract record, and may not be changed without prior approval of the Administrator.

#### ***Section 14. Contract Performance Compliance***

(a) After the award of a contract, the Administrator shall review the Prime Contractor's compliance with its M/W/SBE commitments during the performance of the contract.

(b) The Prime Contractor shall be required to submit the Affirmative Action Monthly MBE/WBE/SBE Status Report providing the information and in the format as specified by the District with every payment request. The Contractor's failure to do so may result in a delay of the progress payment.

(c) Evidence of MBE, WBE and SBE subcontractor participation and payments must be submitted as required by the District to confirm subcontractors' participation and payment.

(d) District contract compliance officers and auditors, or their designees, shall have access to the contractor's and subcontractor's books and records, including certified payroll records, bank statements, employer business tax returns and all records including all computer records and books of account to determine the contractor and MBE, WBE and SBE subcontractor compliance with the goal commitment. Audits may be conducted at any time and without notice in the total discretion of the District. A Prime Contractor must provide the Administrator any additional compliance documentation within 14 calendar days of such request. Audits may be conducted without notice at any time at the discretion of the District.

(e) If District personnel observe that any purported MBE, WBE and SBE subcontractor other than those listed on the Utilization Plan are performing work or providing materials and/or equipment for those M/WBE subcontractors listed on the Utilization Plan, the Prime Contractor will be notified in writing of an apparent violation is taking place and progress payments may be withheld. The contractor will have the opportunity to meet with the Affirmative Action Administrator prior to a finding of noncompliance.

(f) Where a partial or total Waiver of the Contract Goal(s) has been granted, the Prime Contractor must continue to make Good Faith Efforts during the performance of the contract to meet the Goal(s), and the Administrator shall provide technical assistance with respect to such efforts. The Administrator shall require the Prime Contractor to provide documentation of its continuing Good Faith Efforts in attempting to fulfill its commitments.

(g) The Prime Contractor cannot make any changes to the approved Utilization Plan or substitutions of the MBE(s), WBE(s) or SBE(s) listed in the Utilization Plan throughout the life of the contract without the prior, written approval of the Administrator. This includes, but is not limited to, instances in which the Prime Contractor seeks to perform work originally designated for a MBE, WBE or SBE subcontractor with its own forces or those of an affiliate, a non-certified firm or another MBE, WBE or SBE. Failure to obtain the prior, written approval of the Administrator in the format specified by the District shall constitute a breach of the contract, and subject the Prime Contractor to any and all available sanctions. The participation of certified firms that did not receive prior, written approval by the Administrator will not be counted towards the Contract Goal(s).

(i) The Prime Contractor must demonstrate good cause to terminate or reduce the scope of work of the MBE, WBE or SBE to the satisfaction of the Administrator. Good cause is limited to the following circumstances:

(1) The listed MBE, WBE, or SBE subcontractor fails or refuses to execute a written contract.

(2) The listed MBE, WBE or SBE subcontractor becomes bankrupt, insolvent or exhibits credit unworthiness.

(3) The listed MBE, WBE or SBE is ineligible to work on public works projects because of suspension and debarment proceedings pursuant to federal or state or local law.

(4) The Administrator has determined that the listed MBE, WBE or SBE subcontractor is not a responsible contractor.

(5) The listed MBE, WBE or SBE subcontractor voluntarily withdraws from the project and provides the Administrator written notice of its withdrawal.

(6) The listed MBE, WBE or SBE subcontractor is ineligible to receive credit for the type of work required.

(7) The MBE, WBE or SBE owner dies or becomes disabled with the result that the listed MBE, WBE or SBE subcontractor is unable to complete its work on the contract.

(8) Other good cause as determined in the Administrator's sole discretion.

(ii) Good cause does not include where the Contractor seeks to terminate a MBE, WBE or SBE it relied upon to obtain the contract so that the Contractor can self-perform the work or substitute another MBE, WBE or SBE or non-certified subcontractor to perform the work for which the MBE, WBE or SBE was engaged or listed on the Utilization Plan.

(iii) The Prime Contractor must give the MBE, WBE or SBE notice in writing, with a copy to the Administrator, of its intent to request to terminate and/or substitute, and the detailed reasons for the request.

(iv) If the Prime Contractor proposes to terminate or substitute a MBE, WBE or SBE subcontractor for any reason, the Contractor must make Good Faith Efforts as defined herein to find a substitute MBE, WBE or SBE subcontractor for the original MBE, WBE or SBE to meet its MBE, WBE or SBE contractual commitment. Its Good Faith Efforts shall be directed at finding another MBE, WBE or SBE to perform or provide at least the same amount of work, material or service under the contract as the original MBE, WBE or SBE to the extent necessary to meet its MBE, WBE or SBE contractual commitment.

(v) The Prime Contractor must submit a MBE, WBE or SBE Subcontractor's Letter of Intent for each proposed new MBE, WBE or SBE subcontractor.

(vi) The Administrator will approve or disapprove the substitution based on the Prime Contractor's documented compliance with these provisions.

(h) In the event a Prime Contractor fails to achieve the level of MBE, WBE or SBE participation described in its Utilization Plan as the result of the District's deletion of the work to be performed by a MBE, WBE or SBE, the Prime Contractor shall notify the Administrator in writing and may request an amendment of its Utilization Plan. A letter of release signed by the subcontractor must be included with the request.

(i) In the event a Prime Contractor, in the performance of its contract, determines that the conditions of the work warrant a reduction in the scope of work to be performed by a MBE, WBE or SBE the Prime Contractor must utilize Good Faith Efforts to fulfill its MBE, WBE or SBE contractual commitment. The Prime Contractor must notify the Administrator in writing within 14 calendar days of the determination to request an amendment of its Utilization Plan. The Prime Contractor must give the MBE, WBE or SBE notice in writing, with a copy to the Administrator, of its intent to request to reduce the scope of work, and the detailed reasons for the request. The Administrator will approve or disapprove the reduction based on the Prime Contractor's documented compliance with these provisions.

(j) Where contract change orders are made individually or in the aggregate that increase the total value of the contract by more than ten percent (10%) of the original contract value, the Prime Contractor shall increase the utilization of all MBEs, WBEs or SBEs, where feasible, so that the total value of the percentage of work performed by MBEs, WBEs or SBEs as to increased contract value bears the same relationship to the total value of the contract (as

modified by change orders) as the percentage of MBEs, WBEs or SBEs utilization committed to in the contractor's original Utilization Plan.

**Section 15. Sanctions for Non-Compliance**

(a) Where the Administrator believes that the Prime Contractor or subcontractor has committed fraud or misrepresentation against the District or has failed to comply with this Ordinance or its contract, or provided false or fraudulent documentation, the Administrator shall notify the Prime Contractor and/or subcontractor in writing of such determination of noncompliance and withhold up to one hundred percent (100%) of the current progress or final payment due the Prime Contractor for up to 90 days. The amount to be withheld shall be based upon a determination of the degree to which the Prime Contractor has failed to meet its MBE, WBE or SBE contractual commitments and to what extent the Prime Contractor has made Good Faith Efforts to achieve such commitments. The Prime Contractor and/or subcontractor shall have the right to meet with the Administrator within 10 calendar days of receipt of the notice. After conference and conciliation, the Administrator will determine whether the Prime Contractor and/or subcontractor is in compliance.

(b) If the Administrator determines the Prime Contractor and/or subcontractor is not in compliance and the violation cannot be resolved by conference and conciliation, the Administrator shall refer the matter to the Executive Director and the Executive Director may return the referral to the Administrator with direction or may direct the Prime Contractor and/or subcontractor to show cause on a date certain why further sanctions should not be imposed.

(i) The Prime Contractor or subcontractor shall have 15 calendar days after receipt of the show cause notice within which to file a response in writing with the Administrator. A hearing before a duly appointed Hearing Officer shall be convened to provide the contractor and/or subcontractor an opportunity to be heard with respect to the non-compliance. Within 30 calendar days after the Executive Director's referral, the Hearing Officer shall schedule a hearing to be held within 30 calendar days of receipt of the referral for hearing at which the District, the contractor and/or subcontractor may present evidence of the purported violation and/or the absence thereof. The District will carry the burden of proof by a preponderance of the evidence. The Prime Contractor and/or subcontractor may present additional evidence and witnesses to show cause why sanctions should not be imposed. An official record will be kept with the Clerk of the District. All filings by the District or the respondents should be made with the Clerk of the District, with courtesy copies going to the parties and the Hearing Officer.

(ii) The Hearing Officer shall conduct such show cause hearings involving the Ordinance and shall render findings of fact, conclusions of law and recommendations regarding disposition of the hearings. Procedures and rules governing the show cause hearings will be adopted by the Board of Commissioners. The Hearing Officer will not become co-counsel with any attorneys appearing before him/her at any time during the hearing.

(iii) All Show Cause Hearings must be conducted on the record and all testimony must be under oath and transcribed verbatim by a court reporter. All parties shall be given the opportunity to present and respond to evidence. The Hearing Officer shall conduct a fair hearing and maintain order and shall abide by the Judicial Canons of Ethics enacted by the Illinois Supreme Court.

(iv) Within 30 calendar days after the hearing with the Prime Contractor and/or subcontractor, the Hearing Officer shall issue in writing to the Executive Director his/her written findings of fact, conclusions of law as to compliance and recommendations with respect to any

appropriate sanctions. The Executive Director shall transmit the Hearing Officer's findings, conclusions and recommendations to the Board of Commissioners which may impose sanctions for a Prime Contractor's and/or subcontractor's noncompliance with this Ordinance including, but not limited to:

(1) Withholding up to fifty percent (50%) of the current progress or final payment due the contractor until the Administrator determines that the contractor is in compliance. Following the withholding of up to fifty percent (50%) of the current progress payment, up to one hundred percent (100%) of further progress payments may be withheld until the contractor is found to be in compliance with the requirements of this Ordinance. The amount to be withheld will be based upon a determination of the degree to which the Prime Contractor has failed to meet its MBE, WBE or SBE contractual commitments and to what extent the Prime Contractor has made good faith efforts to achieve such commitments.

(2) Declaring the Prime Contractor and/or subcontractor to be non-responsible and disqualify/debar the Prime Contractor and/or subcontractor from eligibility to bid on District construction contracts for a period of not less than one (1) year, and not more than three (3) years. An entity that is disqualified pursuant to the provisions of this Ordinance shall be precluded from participation on any District contract as a Prime Contractor, subcontractor and supplier for the period of disqualification. In cases of the use of false documentation, the making of false statements, fraud or misrepresentation, the disqualification period will be not less than eighteen (18) months, and not more than three (3) years for the second violation of the Ordinance and not less than twenty-four (24) months and not more than three (3) years for the third violation of the Ordinance from the date of disqualification established in the Board Order.

(3) Rejecting bids by the Prime Contractor for other contract(s) not yet awarded to that Bidder in instances of the use of false documentation, the making of false statements, fraud or misrepresentation.

(4) For any MBE, WBE or SBE that has misrepresented its MBE, WBE or SBE status and/or failed to operate as an independent business concern performing a Commercially Useful Function, declaring by the Director that the MBE, WBE or SBE ineligible to participate as a MBE, WBE or SBE in District contracts. A firm that has been declared ineligible may not participate as a MBE, WBE or SBE for a period of not less than one (1) year and not more than three (3) years.

(5) Forfeiting and deducting from the Prime Contractor's progress or final payments under the contract an amount up to the dollar amount of its MBE, WBE goal commitment that the contractor has failed to meet. The amount to be deducted will be based upon a determination of the extent to which the Prime Contractor made Good Faith Efforts to achieve such commitments.

(6) Referring the matter to the Office of the Attorney General or Cook County State's Attorney for follow-up action.

(c) The Administrator and Director will take action to prevent a contract from being awarded to a Prime Contractor or first-tier subcontractor disqualified from bidding hereunder for the period of disqualification.

(d) The District's attorneys' fees and costs will be assessed against the Prime Contractor and/or subcontractor where the Hearing Officer makes a finding that the Prime Contractor or subcontractor used false documentation, made false statements, or committed fraud or misrepresentation.

(e) Notice of sanctions imposed by the Board of Commissioners for violations of the Ordinance by the Prime Contractor, subcontractor and/or supplier will be spread upon the public

record by the District, including but not limited to publication in the Record of Proceedings of the Board of Commissioners, posting on the District's web site, publication in any type of media, newspaper publication and direct notice by letter to governmental entities.

(f) Any sanctions imposed against an entity shall also apply personally to all officers and directors of the entity or partners of the entity, and their successors and assigns with knowledge of the acts and omissions that give rise to the sanctions against the entity.

(g) The District may take other action, as appropriate, within the discretion of the Administrator, subject to the approval of the Hearing Officer and the Board of Commissioners.

## **Section 16. Other Federal Regulations**

The provisions of this Ordinance shall not apply to any contract to the extent that different procedures or standards are required by any law or regulation of the United States and nothing herein shall be interpreted to diminish or supplant the present Equal Employment Opportunity Requirements contained in Appendices B and C of Grant funded contracts or Appendix C non-Grant funded contracts.

## **Section 17. Reporting and Review**

The Board of Commissioners directs the District staff to report to the Board of Commissioners on an annual basis with respect to the following:

(a) The level of MBE, WBE or SBE participation achieved in each year in District construction contracts subject to Appendix D.

(b) Identification of any problems with the enforcement of Appendix D; and

(c) Any recommendations with respect to improving the implementation of Appendix D.

## **Section 18. Sunset Provision**

This Appendix D shall expire on June 30, 2022, unless the District finds its remedial purposes have not been fully achieved and that there is a compelling interest in continuing to implement narrowly tailored remedies to redress discrimination against MBEs and WBEs so that the District will not function as a passive participant in a discriminatory marketplace in the Metropolitan Chicago construction industry.

## **Section 19. Repeal of Prior Inconsistent Provisions**

All enactments and provisions heretofore adopted by this Board of Commissioners in the area of affirmative action in connection with construction contracts subject to this Interim Ordinance that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Interim Ordinance are hereby expressly repealed.

## **Section 20. Severability**

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Interim Ordinance shall be adjudged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, the judgment shall not affect,

impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Interim Ordinance directly involved in the controversy in which the judgment shall have been rendered.

*Section 21. Effective Dates*

This amendment to revised Appendix D shall be effective and apply to all bids for contracts advertised after ~~December 2, 2021~~April 21, 2022.

ADOPTED:

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Kari K. Steele, President  
Board of Commissioners of the  
Metropolitan Water Reclamation  
District of Greater Chicago

Approved as to form and legality:

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Head Assistant Attorney

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General Counsel