



**MINORITY, WOMEN & EVANSTON BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (M/W/EBE)
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, September 21, 2022
6:00 P.M.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmember Bobby Burns, Councilmember Devon Reid, Councilmember Kristian Harris, Jerad Davis, Bonaventure Fandohan, Kemone Hendricks, Michael McLean

MEMBERS ABSENT: Angela Pennisi and Ernest Noy

STAFF PRESENT: Hitesh Desai, CFO / Treasurer; Tammi Nunez, Purchasing Manager; Derke Price, Interim Corporation Counsel; David Stoneback, Deputy City Manager; Nathan Norman, Workforce Development Coordinator; John Gonzalez, Purchasing Specialist

GUEST: Dave Davis, Senior Executive Director for Northwestern University; Trenton Blythe, Director of Major Gifts for Sunshine Enterprises; Laura Lane, Managing Director of Program for Sunshine Enterprises; Jacqui White, Entrepreneur at Sunshine Enterprises; Tasha Wilson, Entrepreneur at Sunshine Enterprises; Ruth Joy Stewart, President and CEO at RJS Marketing Solutions

PRESIDING MEMBER: Councilmember Bobby Burns

1. DECLARATION OF A QUORUM

With a quorum present Councilmember (CM) Burns called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kemone Hendricks motioned to approve the July 20th, 2022 minutes 2nd by Bonaventure Fandohan. All voted in favor of approving minutes unanimously.

3. GUEST INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions made of above NU Incubator – AUX Partner guest.

4. OLD BUSINESS

A. NU Incubator – AUX Partner

Representatives from Northwestern University and Sunshine Enterprises provided an update and a presentation regarding the NU Incubator. Trenton Blythe from Sunshine Enterprise, shared details about three core programs for entrepreneurs that the AUX will be offering. These programs include Community Business Academy, Business Acceleration Services and Access to Capital. Two entrepreneurs, who are currently involved with Sunshine Enterprises, shared their

experiences with the programs. Jacqui White and Tasha Wilson, both aspiring entrepreneurs, provided their experiences and how they were able to gain knowledge from a 12 week business course.

5. STAFF REPORTS

A. M/W/EBE and LEP Tracking Report

Report held until October meeting.

6. NEW BUSINESS

A. City of Evanston Acceptance of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) certification through the Illinois department of Transportation (IDOT)

David Stoneback, Deputy City Manager presented a request to have the city code reviewed to accept DBE certification that is issued by IDOT. Deputy Stoneback shared that the Purchasing Department does not always accept DBE certification. T. Nunez clarified that DBE is accepted for Federal or State funded projects and that clarification for DBE for city funded projects is needed. T. Nunez shared that historically; the directions followed are based on previous practices and are based on the certifying agency and the due diligence they require DBE businesses to meet. Currently, DBE is not stated in the ordinance for the city. Deputy Stoneback stated many out of state companies use IDOT DBE certification because of the large projects, but when these companies provide their DBE certification to the city, it is not accepted and if it is a code modification that is needed, we need to get concurrence with the committee if we want to change the code. Council Member Reid moved to allow IDOT DBE but the committee had lost its quorum. Council Member Burns shared that this change will need to be brought before the council. Deputy Stoneback stated the next step is to work with the legal department to have an ordinance drafted and brought to council for introduction (vote not taken - loss quorum prior to end of discussion).

7. OTHER BUSINESS

A. MWEBE and LEP Clarification and use of LEP Funds

Corporation Council Derek Price provided legal clarification regarding MWEBE and LEP and how those funds can be utilized. The clarification provided was regarding the question of why is MWEBE a goal and not a requirement like LEP. Council Price stated MWEBE is a goal and not a requirement due to the United States Constitution preventing local governments from interfering with certain rights for businesses to cross state lines to conduct business. The City of Evanston is allowed to help businesses that are considered MWEBE, but the city is not allowed to set a hard quota on city contracts. The city is allowed to bypass the lowest bidder and select another bidder within 5%. LEP allows for modest requirements for within Evanston while using Evanston dollars. While using Illinois or federal funds, the city has to use state and federal DBE processes and forms and accept their certifications. Regarding LEP funds and what these funds can be used on is broad and it is all set in code 1721 and in C12. The code states these funds can be used for workforce development and LEP goals.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting ended at 8:10 pm.