

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE  
MINORITY CONTRACTING AND SECTION 3 COMMITTEE MEETING  
RICHMOND REDEVELOPMENT AND HOUSING AUTHORITY  
HELD AT 600 EAST BROAD STREET, 5<sup>TH</sup> FLOOR  
IN RICHMOND, VIRGINIA  
ON MONDAY, MAY 13, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

**Committee Members in Attendance**

Harold Parker, Jr. Committee Chair  
Barrett Hardiman, Commissioner  
Charlene Pitchford, Commissioner  
Veronica G. Blount, Commissioner

**RRHA Staff In Attendance**

Steven Nesmith, Chief Executive Officer  
Tonise Webb, Associate Lead Counsel & Chief Compliance Officer  
Michael Kelly, Chief Operating Officer

**Virtual Attendance**

Eddie Jackson, Jr., Commissioner

**Call To Order, Harold Parker, Jr.**

Chair Parker called the meeting to order at approximately 5:38 p.m. and a quorum was established.

**Motion (Parker/Hardiman) made to allow Commissioner Jackson to participate virtually).**

**Motion Carries Unanimously.**

**Citizens' Comment Period**

No citizens signed up to speak.

**Approve Minutes**

**Motion (Hardiman/Jackson) made to approve the April 8, 2024, Minority Contracting & Section 3 Committee Meeting Minutes.**

**Motion Carries Unanimously.**

### **MBE/Section 3, Colene Orsini, VP of Procurement**

- **Monthly Section 3/MBE Participation Report.**
  - MBE participation this month is at 31.4% to date (30% above the goal). This exceeds the 2023 numbers for the whole year.
    - Women Contracting payments is at 10.78% which is over the 10% goal.
    - Section 3 contractors is at 24.6% (goal is 10).
    - Small business payments is at 24%.
- Ms. Orsini worked with Grace Washington and Community Builders in a subcontractor's outreach on May 7th and was very successful as well as an event by The Department of Housing and Community Development who held a contractor breakfast kind of "Grab and Go" event.
- The goals may need to be raised as the question was brought up whether the goals were set too low since they have already exceeded last year's. HUD asks for 30% participation and RRHA's goal is only 10%. It was also discussed how the bigger projects will affect the numbers due to the size of the projects.
- It is also recommended to make sure going forward that contracts are being created to include small women owned and minority businesses. Mr. Nesmith assured that this would be included in all future MBA's.

### **Creighton Court Project, Steven Nesmith, CEO**

- The Community Builders Meet and Greet was held April 23, 2024, with 20+ MBEs in attendance. There were also people from the banking community present as well.
- Subcontractor Outreach that also included the banking community where bonding capacity was discussed and there were many of the same MBEs in attendance.
- The online event that Colene Orsini did with walking people through the website and helping them to navigate the website was a success.
- The next meeting will be a sort of bagels and coffee event to bring folks in to focus on looking at balance sheets and seeing if folks qualify for a line of credit.
- Chair Parker brought up that it might be beneficial to have a small room set up for the small contractors to be able to come in and view plans, ask questions, etc. Ms. Orsini mentioned

that there is a pre-bid meeting held where contractors can actually go and see what's needed and see plans, etc.

**RRHA Roundtable Contract Procurement Discussion on April 22, 2024, Steven Nesmith CEO**

- The next event will be a sort of bagel and coffee event as mentioned to focus on management services and investment community and help with balance sheets and possible lines of credit.
- JOC Program – Work is ongoing with the Gordian Group and the importance of giving Section 3 folks first dibs on contracts was discussed.
- An “unofficial” announcement was made concerning the modernization of the senior sites and how excited the seniors are for this to be happening.
- It is important and Gibraltar is open to getting referrals of minority, women owned and disadvantaged business to give them an opportunity.
- Chair Parker discussed that he would like to see more youth involvement in programs such as he was involved with previously in Vo Tech such as building a house from the ground up. He will show a video at next month's meeting. It's important to stay on track, keep on pace and move forward. Commissioner Jackson talked about a student resident from Gilpin Court that has now obtained employment with Mike Hopkins group, so things are coming together.

**Next Meeting Date**

Monday, June 10, 2024, 5:30 p.m.

**Adjourn**

Chair Harold Parker adjourned the meeting at approximately 6:22 p.m.