



**OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF COOK COUNTY
118 NORTH CLARK STREET
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TDD (312) 603-5255**

**TONI PRECKWINKLE
PRESIDENT**

May 11, 2015

Dear Business Owner:

Cook County Government, the Forest Preserve District and the Health and Hospital Systems (collectively the "agencies") are conducting a Disparity Study for their Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise ("M/WBE") Programs to ensure that these critical initiatives remain legally defensible and administratively successful. As part of the Disparity Study process, we invite you to join us for a group interview of business owners. The meeting will last approximately two hours.

These important sessions will provide you with an opportunity to relate your experiences with doing business with the agencies and their M/WBE Programs, as well as barriers to the full and fair inclusion of all firms in agency contracting opportunities. Your insight and experiences with the agencies and their contracting processes will help us to identify potential program improvements and support their strategic objectives to increase collaboration and promote economic growth for all elements of our community. We value your input, and we hope you will participate.

We have engaged Colette Holt, an attorney who specializes in minority and women business programs, to conduct the sessions, in conjunction with local a partner Trinal, Inc.

The interviews for each industry segment will be held at various times; please see the information below for date, times and location. The sessions will last approximately two hours.

Location: Cook County Building, 118 N. Clark St., 4 th Floor, Room 45-a		
June 3, 2015	2:00 p.m.	Construction
June 3, 2015	5:00 p.m.	Construction-Related Professional Services, including architectural, engineering & project management consulting firms
June 4, 2015	2:00 p.m.	Goods and General Services, including IT services

To reserve your space at the appropriate session, please contact the Holt Firm at 855-mwbelow (855-692-3529) or cook_study@mwbelow.com. Persons with disabilities who may require special accommodations should contact Ms. Holt no later than one week prior to the session.

We look forward to your participation.

Sincerely,

Toni Preckwinkle
President



Pugh, Jones & Johnson, P.C.
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

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May 15, 2015

Re: City of Chicago Information-Gathering Sessions for Construction Vendors: June 3-5, 2015

Dear Sir or Madam:

We have been retained by the City of Chicago to coordinate and oversee an information-gathering session for construction vendors on the City's Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (M/WBE) Construction Program. These sessions are part of the City's review of its M/WBE Program. These information-gathering sessions will provide construction vendors with an opportunity to relate their experiences with the City and involvement in its M/WBE Construction Program. Your insight and experience will help to identify any needed improvements and support the City's goals for this program.

There will be five Group Interview sessions ("Group Interviews") concerning vendors' experiences conducting business (or attempting to conduct business) as construction vendors in the Chicagoland area. Each Group Interview session will be arranged by demographics. There will be one Group Interview session for each of the following groups: (1) African American construction vendors; (2) Hispanic American construction vendors; (3) Asian American and Native American construction vendors; (4) Non-Minority Women construction vendors; and (5) Non-Minority Men construction vendors.

In addition, there will be two Focus Group Sessions ("Focus Groups") that will similarly discuss vendors' experiences conducting business (or attempting to conduct business) as construction vendors in the Chicagoland area. The two Focus Groups are arranged by the following demographics: (1) M/WBE Primes and Subs Focus Group Session; and (2) Non-M/WBE Primes and Subs Focus Group Session.

You are welcome to attend both the Group Interview session and Focus Group session that fit your demographics. Please note, however, that each Focus Group session will be limited to 40 participants, and those spots will be distributed on a first-come, first-serve basis. **Therefore, please confirm your attendance as early as possible.**

All sessions will be held at City Hall, 121 N. LaSalle, in Room 1103. The date and time for each specific session are listed below:

Wednesday, June 3, 2015

8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.:	African American Group Interview Session
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.:	Hispanic American Group Interview Session
2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.:	Asian American and Native American Group Interview Session

Thursday, June 4, 2015

8:00 a.m.-10:00 a.m.: Non-Minority Women Group Interview Session
11:00 a.m.-1:00 p.m.: Non-Minority Male Group Interview Session
2:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.: M/WBE Primes and Subs Focus Group Session

Friday, June 5, 2015

9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m.: Non-M/WBE Primes and Subs Focus Group Session

Light refreshments will be served during each session.

Our firm will be handling the logistics of all sessions. So that we may have an accurate headcount for all sessions, **please R.S.V.P. to Pugh Jones, and indicate which session(s) you will attend, on or before May 26, 2015 to:**

Shauna Fulbright-Paxton at 312-768-7868 or sfulbright-paxton@pjilaw.com

Rebecca Fuentes at 312-768-7832 or rfuentes@pjilaw.com or

Karl Analo at 312-768-7838 or kanalo@pjilaw.com

We will also be contacting Assist Agencies and construction vendors directly via phone and email inviting vendors to attend these sessions. If you have any questions about these sessions, please feel free to contact Ms. Fulbright-Paxton or Ms. Fuentes.

The results from these information-gathering sessions will assist the City of Chicago's efforts to assess the current and future sustainability of its M/WBE Construction Program. Among other things, the results will be utilized by legal and econometrics experts engaged by the City to prepare a comprehensive report regarding the renewal of its M/WBE Construction Program. The City is hopeful that as many vendors as possible participate in these information-gathering sessions to assist the City in its review of the M/WBE Construction Program.

We appreciate and thank you in advance for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,


Walter Jones

cc: Jamie L. Rhee, Chief Procurement Officer, City of Chicago
Stephen R. Patton, Corporation Counsel, City of Chicago