

COUNTY OF ERIE
LOCAL LAW NO. 9 2005 JUL -b P 1:10
LOCAL LAW INTRO NO. 8 2005
PRINT NO. 2

A LOCAL LAW in relation to the utilization by the County of Erie of minority-owned businesses and woman-owned businesses for professional, technical or other consultant services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. Short Title. This local law shall be known as the Erie County MBE/WBE Utilization Commitment Act.

Section 2. Legislative Intent. As a direct result of Local Law #1, of 1987 the County of Erie has significantly increased its utilization of businesses owned by minority group members and women, and especially locally owned and operated businesses, on construction contracts and has thereby significantly enhanced the opportunities and entrepreneurial skills of minority group members and women in Erie County. The growth and development of such businesses have a substantial positive impact on the economic health of the County. The County's utilization of minority and women-owned professional, technical and other consultant services, such as in the areas of law, finance, information technology, accounting and engineering, outside of construction projects, has not achieved the same level of success, notwithstanding the increased growth of minority and women owned business and firms in these areas and professions.

Section 3. Definitions: For the purposes of this local law, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

A. Minority-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE) shall mean a business which performs a commercially useful function, at least fifty-one percent (51%) of which is owned by minority group members or, in the case of a publicly-owned business, at least fifty-one percent (51%) of all stock is owned by minority group members, with such ownership certified by the Erie County Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and who is doing business and maintains an office in the County of Erie. For the purposes of this paragraph, minority group members are citizens of the United States who are African American, Hispanic, Asian-American and Native American (American-Indian).

B. Women-Owned Business Enterprise (WBE) shall mean a business which performs a commercially useful function, at least fifty-one percent (51%) of which is owned by a woman or women or, in the case of publicly-owned business, at least fifty-one percent (51%) of all stock is owned by a woman or women, with such ownership certified by the Erie County Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and who is doing business and maintains an office in the County of Erie.

C. Department shall mean every County Department, Agency or Administrative Unit, including but not limited to the County Executive, the Legislature, Sheriff's Department, Comptroller's Office, County Clerk's Office and District Attorney's Office.

Section 4. Minority And Women-Owned Business Enterprise Utilization Commitment

(A) Every Department shall annually prepare and implement a written plan for the utilization of bona-fide minority and women-owned businesses on County contracts let by or on behalf of such Department for professional, technical, or other consultant services. The plan must include a goal of awarding to MBE's, directly or through subcontracts, in each fiscal year, at least fifteen percent (15%) of the total value of all contracts intended to be let by the Department and a goal of awarding to WBE's at least five percent (5%) of the total value of all contracts intended to be let by the Department. The plan shall be submitted to the Erie County Division of Equal Employment Opportunity for review and approval by September 15th, preceding the calendar year covered by such plan.

(B) If the Department determines that the goals set forth in Section 4 (A) cannot be met, the Department's annual plan must include a justification why the policy goals are unobtainable. The written justification must include the Department's reasonable good faith efforts to meet the utilization goals and which may include the utilization of minority and women professionals in non-minority and non-women owned businesses.

(C) The County Executive must submit a summary of each Department's plan pursuant to this local law to the Legislature simultaneously with the annual proposed Budget. The plans are not to be considered as a part of the proposed budget.

Section 5. Reporting

A. Every Department shall prepare and submit an initial plan by September 15, 2005 that will cover the period January 1, 2006 to December 31, 2006. Annual plans, including the initial plans, will be modified as appropriate to reflect the Department's final adopted budget for the applicable year and subsequent modifications to the Department's budget during the applicable year.

B. On or before the 30th day of April, and quarterly thereafter, each Department head shall prepare a status report in such standard form as shall be periodically established by the Division of Equal Employment Opportunity, on the implementation and results of its utilization of minority owned business and women owned businesses during the three-month period ending one month before the due date of the report. Each report shall be submitted to the Division of Equal Employment Opportunity. Failure by any Department to submit any reports required by this section shall be grounds for discipline by the County Executive, except that for those Departments whose head are elected, the legislature shall determine the appropriate remedy for non-compliance with of the provisions of this law.

C. As evidence of a Department's good faith efforts to attain the goals set forth in its annual policy, a Department seeking approval by the Legislature of a matter which may involve the utilization by the County of professional, technical or other consultant services, must attach to each such request, a copy of its current status report on its policy goals.

D. The Division of Equal Employment Opportunity shall: (1) monitor the achievement of the annual goals established by each Department and (2) prepare a quarterly report on each Department's goal achievement, including each Department's good faith efforts to each those goals. The report shall be submitted to each Department that submitted a report, the County Executive, the Department and the Legislature.

E. Reasonable efforts shall include, but not limited to:

1. Utilizing a source list of MBEs and WBEs;
2. Solicitation of bids, RFQS and RFPs from WBEs and MBEs
3. Providing MBEs and WBEs sufficient time to submit proposals in response to solicitations;
4. Maintaining records showing utilization of MBEs and/or WBEs, as well as the specific efforts to identify and utilize these companies;
5. Causing its prime contractors to enter into sub-contracts with MBE/WBE firms, if appropriate and feasible, to effectuate the policy goal set forth herein;
6. Building the capacity of local and regional MBE and/or WBE firms to provide quality technical and professional services.

F. The Division of Equal Employment Opportunity shall prepare an annual report to the County Executive and the Legislature on the compliance of Departments with the requirement of this law.

Section 6. Applicability to contractual agreements for professional, technical or other consultant services. Notwithstanding any other application, this local law shall apply to any and all contractual agreements for professional, technical or other consultant services made in accordance with Section 19.08 of the Erie County Administrative Code. Waiver of Section 19.08, in accordance with the Erie County Legislature's authority to make a finding of necessity that the special service or skill must be provided immediately, or a determination that the procedure is impracticable, shall not constitute waiver or inapplicability of the provisions of this local law.

Section 7. Effective Date. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State pursuant to Section 27 of the New York State Municipal Home Rule Law.

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