ALLIANCE OF MINORITY CHAMBERS & CONTRACTOR EVALUATIONS

IF YOU WISH TO SPEAK TO CITY COUNCIL, PRINT YOUR NAME, ADDRESS, AND EMAIL.

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Date <u>12-16-09</u>

Page 2 of 2

SUBMITTED BY FAYE BURCH 12-16-09

Subj: Date: Recommendation for a better way to identify panelist for City contracting

12/15/2009 2:47:19 P.M. Pacific Standard Time

From:

skipcollier@worldnet.att.net

To: CC:

nick@ci.portland.or.us, Dan@ci.portland.or.us, rleonard@ci.portland.or.us, Amanda@ci.portland.or.us jassoconstruction@yahoo.com, bill.hart@carletonhart.com, erubeifeyi@msn.com, msdc@wildblue.net, KATHYHCONST@aol.com, ron@probitybuilders.com, john@gbccoregon.com, innvpc@aol.com, cecil@gbccoregon.com, amanda@reliantplumbing.com, andrew@reliantplumbing.com, joesewell@comcast.net, kendrickm34@gmail.com, morelandj@rajmore.com, john@oneillelectricinc.com, asapinc2009@aol.com, jjackson@iccdc.org, mm@bourkeconstruction.com, Always2c@aol.com, suellpainting@q.com, jrodriguez@rrgcinc.net, hermann@colasconstruction.com, tjmcipdx@yahoo.com, nshah@mesopdx.org, smaddox@mesopdx.org, jean.ae@comcast.net, haspainting@hotmail.com, meron@bridgecityinc.com, fay@bourke-construction.com, ryan@mcdonaldexcavatinginc.com, kaleidoscope.construction@yahoo.com, gabi@ramoslandscape.com, jose@azuriconstruction.com, <u>vicenteh@coastind.com, hasana@coastind.com, tyler3695@comcast.net, andrews@gwestoffice.net,</u> info@islandlandscape.net, nosacconstruction@yahoo.com, faisoninfo@comcast.net, mmartin@nwicorp.com, smalltobigllc@gmail.com, MEZAM1@aol.com, rosa@pmgasbestos.com, cody@grayandassociates.biz, Libertysteel1@aol.com, skipcollier@att.net, hartleycreationsinc@hotmail.com, andrew@colasconstruction.com, vlygrwrs@web-ster.com, jaime@ramoslandscape.com, cityofrosesdr@yahoo.com, don.shanklin@assuretynw.com, Pacificmarkconst@aol.com, rogers.anthony@comcast.net, valsolor@msn.com, <u>cijacksonconstruction@msn.com, andre@groupagb.com, mike@mcdonaldexcavatinginc.com,</u> <u>kidtek360@aol.com, posej@comcast.net, maurice@oneillelectricinc.com, alarmtracks@comcast.net,</u> greenlife@verizon.net, Malcantar1@aol.com, Raleigh.Lewis@state.or.us, FMBurchPR@aol.com

Commissioners Fish, Fritz, Leorand and Saltzman,

As an African American owner of a successful consulting business for the past 30 years, I applaud the City of Portland in its efforts to improve its contracting process. I have found it much easier to do business with Canadian companies than with the City of Portland. At least 95% of my work is now done in other states and countries and none is done with the City. This says something about my experience in trying to obtain City contracts.

Even though I appaud your efforts in improving the contracting process, I question the approach. Having one organization serve as a clearing house for people to serve on selection committees is an approach that would have been used 20 years ago in which individuals had to be contacted via mail or telephone.

Today's electronic media easily allows the City to use a broad range of resources that more fully ensure the very best African American expertise in each of the City's contracting areas. Contracts for legal services, for example, would use Oregon Chapter of the National Bar Association to identify African America attorneys. The Seattle/Portland Chapter of the National Black MBA Association could be used for accounting and business-consulting contracts. The Portland chapter of the National Association of Minority Contractors can be used for construction and construction-consulting contracts. The local chapter of the National Association of Black Social Workers could be used for social-service contracts. The Portland chapter of the National Association of Black Engineers could provide panelists for engineering contracts. For contracts in which no association was available to provide panelists, the City could default to a more general organization.

The City needs to be as inclusive as possible in its contracting procedures. If nothing more, the City needs to give the various associations a chance to decline the opportunity of providing panelists before giving the responsibility to one organization. The City simply needs to let the African Community know that it is soliciting panelists recommended by organizations to see which organizations step forward. Even if the City has no interest in obtaining the best African

American panelists, this approach would at least give the appearance of making an attempt to do so.

Skip Collier

skipcollier2@yahoo