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Council Resolution 181 calls

CM

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Tue 11/1, 7:04 PM

CouncilMail; Ball, Calvin B

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Dr. Ball first let me say thank you for your efforts to make the workplace and procurement opportunities inclusive and representative of all groups within the county. I personally have become dismayed with the minority certification process in part because I believe while well intentioned, abuse of the system is more rampant than is being reported. I respect your efforts and would only ask whatever the process is that you choose it must include a series of checks and balances that confirm those certified are truly certified and representative of the groups they claim to be a part of. In other words if a woman own business is truly woman owned it should also be woman managed and independent of spouse, brother, cousins and any other relatives who just happen to be in the same business. Too often I have seen contracts awarded that never truly reach the groups it was meant for. I have also witnessed legitimate minority own businesses suffer, lose contracts and even be blackballed because of refusal to play along with prime contractors.

However well-intentioned it does no good to put in a place a program that cannot be properly monitored. I would encourage controls be in place that ensure each and every certified business whatever the status is truly owned, managed and controlled day to day by the parties named. Lastly once certification is achieved it cannot and should not be allowed to go unchecked. Owners should be required to speak with a committee who ask business questions a real owner would know. Businesses should not be allowed to collocate in a building with known relatives who happen to be in similar lines of business. The NMSDC for example allowed a Howard County Business to bid and win contracts for 10 years, even though they received documented proof that the business in question was a shell and pass through. When NMSDC finally revoked the membership after being notified a second time they also changed their procedure of public listing the names of the businesses they certify. Why if they are truly doing their jobs would you keep private a list of certified women or minority own businesses? MDOT does not do this so why does NMSDC? Hope my comments help.

Good luck and best wishes,

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