


RE: Council Resolution 181

LB  latanya Brown-roberston <lnbrown.easda@gmail.com>
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CouncilMail

Reply all |

RE: Council Resolution 181

Dear members of the Committee:

The Economic Analysis and Strategic Data Associates, LLC (EASDA) offer this letter to support Council Resolution 181, which calls for an analysis of practices, policies and procedures of the County's Equal Business Opportunity Programs. As a female, minority business owner of an economic research firm and as a professor of Economics at Bowie State University, I concur that this resolution is important to facilitate a stronger sustainable relationship between the government and firms that are owned by woman, minorities and individuals with disabilities.

Council Resolution 181 would allow the examination of contracting and purchasing practices of women, minority and individuals with disabilities owned firms. Moreover, this research will offer Howard County the tools needed to overcome the barriers so often impacted by firms owned by these important stakeholder groups.

The discovery of information and findings are critical in fostering equal business opportunities between the government and businesses owned by minorities, women and individuals with disabilities. In 2008, I conducted a study for the Governor's Office Minority Affairs with Towson University's RESI Center to examine BRAC-related business opportunities for small and minority owned firms. Within this research, we found that many small and minority owned business do not have a thorough understanding of the bidding and procurement process and lack financial resources to compete with other mainstream firms. We also found that small and minority owned firms were not adequately marketing their organization for government needs (Irani and Brown, 2008). I believe Council Resolution 181 proposed research will extend and update the findings that I found in my report along with equipping the County with the tools needed to truly offer equal business opportunities

For the reasons stated above I, Dr. LaTanya, Brown-Robertson, Principle Economist at EASDA Llc and Associate Professor of Economics at Bowie State University recommends a favorable report for Council Resolution 181.

Respectfully,

LaTanya Brown-Robertson, Ph.D.
President of Economic Analysis and Strategic Data Associates, LLC (EASDA)
Associate Professor of Economics at Bowie State University

Works Cited

Enchautegui, M., Fix, M., Loprest, P., & Wissoker, S. v. (1997). *Do Minority Owned Businesses Get a Fair Share of Government Contracts?* The Urban Institute. Washington, DC: Urban Institute.

Irani, D. a. (2008). *Maryland BRAC Small and Minority Business Opportunities Study*. Maryland: Maryland GOVERNOR'S Office of Minoirty Affairs.