

Testimony regarding Council Resolution 181-2016

BN 

Brooks Newman <BrooksNewman@allstatefloors.com>

Tue 11/22, 11:44 AM

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Action Items

To whom it may concern:

Please accept the attached letter as testimony in support of CR181-2016. Please advise if any additional information is required. I am available for any follow-up questions or information required to assist in passing this important resolution.

Thank you,

Brooks Newman
General Manager

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FA0

Flooring the World

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Brooks Newman
Allstate Floors
8220 Patuxent Range Road, Ste D
Jessup, MD 20794

November 21, 2016

Howard County Council
George Howard Building
3430 Court House Drive
Ellicott City, MD 21043

RE: CR 181-2016 Equal Business Opportunity Commission - study of Equal Business Opportunity Program and purchasing practices.

Honorable Councilmembers:

I would, first, like to thank the County Council of Howard County for your time considering this important matter. My name's Brooks Newman and I am the Vice President and General Manager of Allstate Floors. I am writing on behalf of our company and our Owner and President, Jose Ortiz.

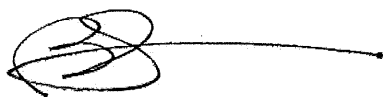
As an MBE company, we specialize in the supply and installation of commercial flooring. We proudly employ a tremendously diverse group of over 25 construction professionals and are proud to call Howard County our home. On behalf of our company, we strongly urge the council to pass the above named resolution.

Our company, now celebrating its 20th year in business, started with one man and one van. We owe our growth, in large part, to equal opportunity programs and MBE requirements on projects. There is no doubt in my mind that we wouldn't be the company we are today without the equal opportunities provided over the years we have been in business.

We have also been witness to the loss of jobs we have been qualified for and priced competitively, because we didn't know someone or have the right sphere of influence. This is why equal business opportunity programs are so important. They provide a level playing field for minority, disabled, and woman-owned businesses and a chance to be fairly considered for work that we can perform.

There are many existing barriers to growth for minorities and minority owned business that I see in everyday business, and equal business opportunity programs help to break down these barriers and promote inclusion and diversity in business. This encourages creativity and competition in the market – which can become stagnant with a monolithic looking marketplace.

In conclusion, I strongly urge the passing of this resolution and I thank you for your time and consideration today.



Brooks Newman

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