



**WEATHERIZATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday November 15, 2011**

The Weatherization committee convened on Tuesday November 15, 2011 at City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street in the Executive Session Room, # 1027 in Austin, Texas.

Chair, Andy Ramirez called the Board Meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

**Board Members in Attendance:
Andy Ramirez and Brian Walters**

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the September 20, 2011 meeting were approved on a motion by Mr. Walters and second by Chair, Mr. Ramirez. Motion passed 2-0.

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Monica Washington, Edgewater Energy Solutions stated she works with Mt. Carmel Apartments and advocating minority participation in the Weatherization program. She asks this Committee to accept additional grant funding provided by Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs (TDHCA) that will be utilized for the Mt. Carmel households.

3. OLD BUSINESS

Discussion regarding the Austin Energy Weatherization project and potential recommendations to the Minority-Owned and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) & Small Business Procurement Program Advisory Committee regarding minority participation.

Mr. Ramirez discussed postponement of Items 2 and 56 by the Council on November 10th regarding approval of \$600,000 in ARRA grant funds from the U.S. Department of Energy through the TDHCA. He also made a recommendation to meet with the Austin Energy Utility Commission to discuss creating a joint subcommittee regarding minority participation and issues related to projects coming out of Austin Energy. He stated upon approval by the Advisory Committee, City Manager, Marc Ott instructions were to take this item direct to full Council.

Mr. Walters supports comments and recommendations by Mr. Ramirez.

Mr. Ramirez motioned to bring before the Advisory Committee a presentation to the Austin Energy Utility Commission to create a joint committee regarding minority participation on all future projects. Motion 2nd by Mr. Walters and was approved 2-0.

Citizen Communication is summarized below;

Mr. Paul Saldana, US Hispanic Contractors Association (USHCA) gave a brief overview of occurrences since Council's vote on community recommendations in April 2011 and expressed concerns that the Committee and community was not involved before items to receive grant funds went to Council. He requests that the Auditors Department get involved.

Ms. Carol Hadnot, Austin Area Black Contractors Association (ABCA) expressed concerns regarding contractors positioned to move grant funds prior to Council's approval of those funds. She also suggested the program be moved to a different department such as Purchasing. She continued to express concerns that the community was told no other funds would be forthcoming.

Ms. Jan Lawson, Director of Business Development and Contract Compliance, Austin Energy (AE) presented the September 2011 ARRA Weatherization Sub Contractors Monthly Assignment Summary report and reviewed the changes and updates requested by Committee.

Fred Yebra, Manager, Commercial Energy of Austin Energy, briefed the Committee on the Weatherization Contractors-Cumulative File Distribution report.

Yolanda Miller, Deputy Purchasing Officer, Purchasing Department gave detail report of findings for Austin Energy Weatherization BPI and Resnet certification of prime contractors upon contract award.

Citizen Communication is summarized below;

Ms Alayne Johnson and Ms. Carol Hadnot (ABCA) both expressed concerns that based on findings more than two contractors were found not to have BPI and/or Resnet certification when awarded contracts as primes on Weatherization program. They expressed concerns that other subcontractors also not certified were not given the same opportunity to bid as primes.

4. STAFF REPORTS

Veronica Lara, Director SMBR reviewed the MBE/WBE Participation report with the Committee.

5. AGENDA ITEMS

No agenda items for the next meeting were discussed.

6. ADJOURNMENT

Chair, Andy Ramirez adjourned the meeting at 4:14 p.m.