# SIMBR Small & Minority Business Resources Opening the door to opportunities.



## City Council Audit & Finance Committee

MARCH 31, 2021

## Agenda



Introductions



Compliance Division



Certification Division



Strategic Initiatives

# Compliance Division

Tamela Saldana, Compliance Officer

## Disparity Study Project Milestones

#### Contract Validation by Prime/Subs

√ 96% Response Rate

### Stakeholder/Public Introduction Meetings

√ 312 Participants

#### **Public Engagement Sessions**

√ 185 Participants

#### **SMBR Session**

✓ 27 Participants

#### **Department Executive Staff Sessions**

√ 8 Departments

#### **COA Internal Input Sessions**

√ 117 Participants

### M/WBE Advisory Committee

√ 7 out of 8 Members

## Anticipated Project Timeline



## City Council Resolution No. 20200326-053

- ▶ March 26, 2020 Inclusive Procurement Working Group (IPWG)
  - City staff: SMBR, Financial Services, Equity Office, and Law
  - MBE/WBE Stakeholders: Minority Trade Alliance, Minority Chambers, Prime and subcontractors, and MBE/WBE and Small Business Enterprise Procurement Advisory Committee
- ▶ Purpose: Review and consider the recommendations from Disparity Study
  - Four major areas: Certification, Best Practices, Communication & Transparency, and Resources to MBEs and WBEs
- ▶ Memo to Mayor & City Council November 4, 2020
  - Outlined all members of the IPWG
  - Proposed a Tentative Schedule and Action Plan to accomplish identified tasks
  - Tentative first meeting of the IPWG in August 2021

# Certification Division

Elton Price, Division Manager

## Certification Requirements

#### Small Business Size Standard

- Set by Small Business Administration (SBA)
- Based on Annual Receipts or Number of Employees (Determined by Industry)

#### Social Disadvantage

- African American
- Asian American
- Native American
- Hispanic
- Women

### **Economic Disadvantage**

- Personal Net Worth (PNW)
  - \$1.583 (MBE/WBE)
  - \$1.320 (DBE/ACDBE)

### Ownership, Management, & Control

- At Least 51% by Minority/Women
- Owner Manages and Controls Daily Operations

#### Experience

- Knowledge, Skills, Abilities
- Resume, Site Audits, Contracts,
   References, Company Documentation

# Certification Online Application Portal Update

Online Process Launched January 2020

Online Portal Usage to Date 900 Firms

City Approved Certifications through CCS to Date*		
MBE	241	
WBE	197	
SBE	28	
DBE/ACDBE**	661	
Total	1127	

Next Steps: Data Sharing between Austin Finance Online and B2GNow

<sup>\*</sup>Data as of 3-22-2021

<sup>\*\*</sup>May also be MBE/WBE certified

## Paper vs Portal

Applications Received	Paper Process (2019)	Online Process (2020)
New Applications	188	433
Continued Eligibility	57	188
DBE/ACDBE Annuals	442	565
DBE/ACDBE Interstate	5	10
Code Expansions	89	6

Application Decisions		
Approved	458	940
Decertified	53	71
Denials	19	31

## Strategic Initiatives



## Compliance Module

- Compliance Module Implementation Underway
  - Online Submissions of Subcontractor Participation Forms
  - Online Submissions of Requests for Change
  - Online submission of Contract Close-Outs



\*Next Steps: Data Sharing from eCAPRIS and Compliance module

## Supportive Services Partnership

- Online Education Portal for City-Certified Firms
- Tailored to M/W/DBE Firms
- Government Procurement Trainings
- Benefits to Our Customers
  - Guides Them on Next Steps After Certification
  - Educates on Local City of Austin Procurement Process
  - Expands Their Opportunities



## Voice of the Customer Program

- Best Practice Approach to Customer Engagement
- Establishes a Feedback Loop with our Customers
- Series of Customer Surveys and Action Plans

- Customer Surveys:
  - Retention
  - Satisfaction
  - System Experience
  - Customer Service



- Collects on Potential KPIs:
  - Customer Satisfaction Rate
  - Customer Net Promoter Score (NPS)
  - Certification Retention Rate

## **SMBR**

## MISSION:

To promote access and equity on City of Austin contracts, providing economic opportunity to small, minority-owned, women-owned, and disadvantaged businesses.

Thank You