March 10, 2014

Dear Business Owner:

The **City of Austin** recently commissioned a **Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MBE/WBE) Disparity Study**. This study will examine the participation of MBEs and WBEs in public sector contracting and procurement activities over the last several years. **Travis County** and the **Austin Independent School District** are conducting similar disparity studies concurrently with the City's. Additionally, the City's study will examine **Veteran-Owned Business Enterprises**.

Gathering feedback from business owners is a very important part of each study. Each year, the City, the County and the School District purchase a wide variety of construction, consulting services, and other goods and services from business owners like you. These studies provide a unique opportunity for interested business owners to share their experiences and insights regarding both the opportunities and the challenges involved in doing business or attempting to do business with any or all of these three Austin-area governments.

On Thursday, April 3rd, 2014, the City, County and School District will host a **Kickoff Meeting** for interested business owners. This meeting will provide an opportunity to learn more about the purpose of the study, key tasks that will be performed, and—most important—about the specific opportunities that will be available to you in the coming months to provide your feedback to the study team.

Please join us from 6:00-7:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 3rd, 2014 at City Hall (301 W. 2nd St.) to kickoff this important project. Free parking is available in the City Hall parking garage located at 200 Lavaca St.

Sincerely,

Samuel T. Biscoe
Travis County Judge

Lee Leffingwell
Mayor of Austin

Vincent M. Torres
President,
AISD Board of Trustees