



Executive Order No. EO2021-0003

DECLARATION AND ORDER REGARDING OUTREACH AND COMPLIANCE WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY MWBE CONTRACTING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, in 2012 the County established the County Equity Commission (the “Equity Commission”) and the Citizens’ Advisory Council on Equity (the “Equity Council”) to review and report on equity efforts undertaken by the County and the delivery of County services, as well as the collection of relevant data; and,

WHEREAS, in 2014, the County conducted a disparity study to determine whether discrimination existed in the County’s awarding contracts to minority and women owned businesses (the “2014 Study”); and,

WHEREAS, the 2014 Study showed long-standing disparities did exist and recommended the implementation of various race- and gender-neutral efforts as well as limited race- and gender-conscious initiatives; and,

WHEREAS, in 2016 the County adopted a series of race- and gender-neutral efforts concurrently with limited race- and gender-conscious initiatives, including extensive business outreach, as an outgrowth of the County’s small business development programs; and,

WHEREAS, in January 2019 the County engaged Griffin and Strong, P.C. (“GSPC”) to conduct a disparity study of County contracting during the period 2014 through 2018 (the “2020 Study”); and,

WHEREAS, the 2020 Study showed that the County’s race- and gender-neutral efforts and limited race- and gender-conscious initiatives that arose from the 2014 Study had not sufficiently addressed the race and gender disparities; and,

WHEREAS, the 2020 Study provides the additional, legally-necessary support to institute more robust race- and gender-conscious programs and offers eight specific, legally-defensible recommendations to reduce the disparity in County contracting with minority- and women-owned business enterprises (“MWBE”); and,

WHEREAS, by my Executive Order 2021-0001, dated January 7, 2021, I directed the Office of Procurement and Diversity (“OPD”), in consultation with the County Equity Commission and the Citizens’ Advisory Council on Equity, to propose a Cuyahoga County MWBE Contracting Program designed to increase the participation of MWBEs in County contracting (the MWBE Program).

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Armond Budish, County Executive of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, by virtue of the powers vested in me under Article 18, Section 3 of the Ohio Constitution, by the Charter of Cuyahoga County, and the laws of Cuyahoga County and the State of Ohio, do hereby order and declare as follows:


1. To support the MWBE Program and promote effective procurement, the County shall conduct outreach to contractors and vendors desiring to do business with the County to educate such vendors and contractors on the MWBE Program, MWBE Goals, and the Good-Faith Efforts Criteria.
2. The OPD is hereby directed to propose a compliance program ("MWBE Compliance") to support the MWBE Program to be established in accordance with my Executive Order EO2021-0001, dated January 7, 2021.
3. MWBE Compliance shall include assessment, certification, monitoring, verification of ownership of MWBEs, and verification of overall compliance with the MWBE Program by vendors and contractors desiring to do business with the County.
4. This Executive Order shall go into immediate effect upon my signature. The original copy of this Executive Order shall be filed with the Cuyahoga County Department of Law, and a copy shall be filed with the Clerk of County Council.

I have signed this Executive Order on this 7 day of January 2021, in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.



Armond Budish, County Executive
Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Attested to by,



Gregory G. Huth, Director of Law