

**CITY OF NEWTON
MINORITY/ WOMEN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PLAN
DECEMBER 1, 1999
JANUARY 21, 2010 revised**

STATEMENT OF POLICY:

Whereas it is the policy of the government of the United States of America, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Newton that no person shall be discriminated against in any manner whatsoever on the grounds of race, religion, color, sex, handicap or national origin; and

Whereas, it is the policy of the government of the United States of America that no person shall, on the grounds of race, color, sex or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program of activity funded entirely or in part by the City, the State or Federal government; and

Whereas, it is the policy of the government of the United States of America to encourage that Minority/Women Business Enterprises shall have the maximum practicable opportunity to participate in Federal and State assisted projects; and all City funded contracts; and

Whereas, it is the policy of the City of Newton to encourage that minority/women business enterprises shall have the maximum practicable opportunity to participate in all City funded contracts; and

Whereas, the City of Newton, as a recipient of Federal and State funds subscribes to the above policies and will fully comply With Federal, State and local laws and directives governing non-discrimination, equal opportunity and affirmative action in all municipal activities; and

Whereas, to further enunciate the equal opportunity policy of the City of Newton's Minority/Women Business Program, the following responsibilities are specified

This MINORITY/ WOMEN Business Enterprise Plan sets forth the administrative standards for the further implementation of the City of Newton's policy of the utilization of minority contractors and subcontractors.

The City of Newton strongly affirms that it will not discriminate in any contractual procedures against any persons because of race, color, religion, age, disability, sex or national origin. This policy shall be administered with a positive supportive attitude.

It is the responsibility of the City of Newton to take affirmative steps to implement this policy to insure equality of opportunity in conducting the Program including notifying those persons and businesses doing business with the City, that contracts for goods, services and construction, shall be made Without reference or regard to race, color, sex, age, handicap, religion or national origin.

Setti D. Warren Mayor

CITY OF NEWTON
MINORITY/ WOMEN BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PLAN
JANUARY 21, 2010

I. **DEFINITIONS:**

A. **Minority Person**- the term includes a person who is of Black Hispanic, Asian, American Indian or Cape Verdean origin.

B. **Minority Business Enterprise (MBE)** -- the term shall mean a business a) that is certified by SOMWBA; or b) I provides evidence satisfactory to the City's Affirmative Action Officer that it is a business owned or controlled by one or more of the following:

- an individual who is a minority person,
- a partnership or joint venture controlled by minority persons in which at least 51 % of the ownership interest is held by minority persons or,
- a corporation or other entity controlled by minority persons and in which at least 51 % of the stock is owned by one or more minority persons.

C. **Contract Compliance Officer** - the Chief Procurement Officer or his/her designee responsible for the implementation of Newton's Minority/Women Enterprise Plan ("MWBE Plan") and activities.

D. **MCAD** - Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

E. **SOMWBA** -- State Office of Minority/Women Business Assistance,

F. **City** - The City of Newton.

G. **Women Business Enterprise (WBE)** - the term shall mean a business a) that is certified by SOMWBA; or b) provides evidence satisfactory to the City's Affirmative Action Officer that it is a business owned or controlled by one or more of the following:

- an individual who is a woman.
- a partnership or joint venture controlled by women in which at least 51% of the ownership interest is held by women, or
- a corporation or other entity controlled by women and in which at least 51% of the stock is owned by one or more women.

H. **MWBE** — Minority or Women Business Enterprise

II. **GOALS:**

Newton's Minority/Women Enterprise Plan ("MWBE Plan") shall be guided by the goals presented below to promote minority/women opportunities within the City.

These goals comprise the framework for those activities to be implemented as part of the MWBE Plan:

To take affirmative action in expanding opportunities for minority and women owned firms in obtaining contracts within the City of Newton.

To assure that all contractors, regardless of race color, religion, creed, national origin, sex, age, ancestry or handicap, shall have equal opportunity to City contracting activities.

To award, of the total annual City contract dollars expended, 10 percent to MBE and 5 percent to WBE for construction; for goods and services, 5 percent WBE and 5 percent MBE.

III. SOLICITATION ACTIVITIES:

To notify MWBEs of upcoming contracts for construction, professional services and supplies, funded in whole or in part with Federal, State, and City funds, the following activities will be undertaken. In addition on a regular basis, the City of Newton will distribute to its listing of MWBEs and SOMWBA, a summary of upcoming contract opportunities which are subject to the City's MWBE Plan.

A. Construction Contracts

All construction contracts with an estimated value over \$50,000 will be formally advertised within local, regional, minority and special interest publications at least 14 days prior to the bid opening date.

For all such construction contracts a "Notice of Solicitation" of a project going out to bid will be distributed to appropriate SOMWBA or City certified firms at least 14 days prior to the bid opening date.

B. Contracts for Professional Services

The City of Newton will send notification of its advertised Request for Proposals to appropriate! SOMWBA or City certified firms Responding MWBE firms will be considered for contract award within the bounds of generally accepted management practice or with the applicable procurement law relating to securing the lowest cost and best services available.

C. Procurement of Supplies

The City of Newton will (where feasible) utilize MWBEs for the procurement of supplies in accordance with City purchasing procedures. These efforts will be documented and reported to MCAD, and the Mayor's office on a quarterly basis.

IV. CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES:

A. Goals

The City of Newton bid documents and contracts with an estimated value over \$50,000 will contain the City's goal of 10% for MBE and 5% for WBE utilization for subcontracts,

B. Pre-Bid Conference

To affirmatively further the opportunities available to prospective bidders, the City will hold a pre-bid conference 5-7 days prior to the bid opening date for all City construction contracts and subcontracts with an estimated value over \$50,000.

The pre-bid conference will provide an opportunity for contractors to: review and clarify the technical requirements of the projects, review the City's MWBE Plan; and review Equal Opportunity requirements. The *City* will advertise this conference and extend invitations to interested contractors as part of the notice of solicitation.

C. Bid Submission

All bids for City of Newton contracts with -an estimated value over \$50,000 shall include a certification of intent to be completed by the bidder swing his/her intent to comply with the City's MWBE Plan. Failure to include this certification shall be an informality which may be waived if such certification is received prior to the award of the contract.

D. Contract Execution

Upon notification of award of the contract, the bidder shall provide a written plan detailing how it will comply with the MWBE Plan

E. Monitoring

Throughout the duration of the contract, the *City* of Newton through its Contract Compliance Officer, will monitor the progress and activities of all contractors and subcontractors as they attempt to comply with the MWBE Plan.

F. Enforcement

In the case of clear neglect to make a good faith effort to comply with this MWBE Plan, the City of Newton reserves the right to designate contractor, after a hearing, as ineligible for future City bid awards.

V. CONTRACT COMPLIANCE OFFICER/DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:

The Contract Compliance Officer, as liaison between minority firms and the City of Newton will have the overall responsibility for the implementation of Newton's MWBE Plan. This responsibility includes the development, management, dissemination of information; the provision of technical assistance to minority firms including clarification of procedures to be implemented; maintenance of relevant documentation; completion of reporting requirements; and performance of monitoring and evaluation activities; and maintenance and updating of listings of minority/women business.

The Contract Compliance Officer has oversight of all City procurements for construction, professional services and supplies and shall coordinate the implementation of the MWBE Plan with other *City* departments.
