

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

MAY 12, 2009

During challenging economic times, government at all levels has an obligation to develop multiple programs to promote economic recovery, including providing appropriate assistance to businesses and employees. The success of local businesses benefits the County in many ways, through increased tax base and employment rolls, reinvestment in the local economy, and stabilization of communities.

County policies should be reexamined, evaluated, and revised if necessary. On a national level, much focus has been placed on assisting large companies and financial institutions with economic recovery, yet small businesses, especially those which are disadvantaged and are often the mainstay of our communities, have not been extended the same levels of assistance.

The County of Los Angeles has adopted a Community Based Enterprise (“CBE”) Program which identifies CBEs as certified minority-, women-, disabled veteran- and disadvantaged-owned businesses. This Program established a 25% goal for CBE participation in County contracting and purchasing programs. Additionally, the

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County has, in the past, identified ways to incubate new businesses, encourage growth, and serve as a resource for CBE businesses through programs developed within various County departments and agencies on an ad hoc and programmatic basis. It may be more effective to coordinate, expand, and manage these economic development programs for CBE businesses within one County department or commission.

THEREFORE, I MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Direct the Chief Executive Officer, the Director of the Internal Services Department, the Director of the Office of Affirmative Action and Compliance, and County Counsel, to prepare a report to the Board of Supervisors, due in sixty days, to include the following:

A) A report on whether the County has 1) achieved its 25% goal for CBE participation in County contracting and purchasing programs, including 2) a breakdown by each department, 3) an evaluation on whether this goal could be increased, and to what percentage, and 4) to consider whether achieving these goals should be included in annual managerial performance reviews;

B) Recommendations on outreach methods to the business community to encourage minority-, women-, disabled veteran- and disadvantaged-owned businesses to become certified and to bid successfully at all levels of government, including outreach to mainstream business entities to encourage them to partner with these

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CBEs;

C) Identify obstacles to CBE participation in County contracting, including entity formation issues, business credit issues, bonding and County bidding procedures, and include recommended measures to resolve these obstacles.

D) Recommendations on appointing or creating the position of a Director to coordinate and develop all of these programs County-wide and to assist County departments in meeting goals established by the Board of Supervisors, including recommendations on where this position should be placed within the County organization, job description, recommended salary range, minimum requirements and recommended experience a candidate should possess;

E) A review and evaluation of the efforts of other cities throughout the country which have developed CBE participation programs, including, but not limited to, Washington, D.C., Baltimore, Oakland and Atlanta;

F) Recommendations on the roles of various County commissions and related agencies, including, but not limited to, the Small Business Commission and the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation, in the CBE participation effort; and

G) A recommendation as to whether the establishment of a separate commission dedicated to promoting CBEs is advisable.

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