



SECRETARY OF STATE

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State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER

18-07

August 6, 2018

EXTENSION OF WORKING GROUP ON DIVERSITY IN CONSTRUCTION

WHEREAS, an executive order was issued to create a Working Group on Diversity in Construction (“Working Group”) for the purpose of reviewing all aspects of horizontal and vertical construction laws, regulations, rules, policies and practices as it relates to their impact on minority, women and disability business enterprises; and

WHEREAS, much has been accomplished through this Working Group over the past year, including identification of and research on several target areas, meetings with focus groups to solicit a variety of perspectives on the issues and challenges facing the diverse business community, the submission of recommendations on several target areas, and legislative proposals on such topics as prompt payment, bonding, and retainage; and

WHEREAS, simultaneous to the efforts of the Working Group, general improvements have been made to the minority- and women-owned business enterprise (“M/WBE”) program. Following a LEAN review, the M/WBE certification process was streamlined, and the processing time was decreased from an average of 50 days to 14.5 days; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Opportunity has expanded its outreach to include trainings to various community groups on business development and the M/WBE certification process; and

WHEREAS, the number of certified M/WBE firms increased from 452 in April 2015 to 600 in April 2017, a 33% increase in two years; and

WHEREAS, the utilization of certified M/WBEs across all state procurements increased from 4.1% in FY 2015 to 14.9% in the first three quarters of FY 2018, more than tripling in three years; and

WHEREAS, although significant progress has been made, there remains much work to be done to increase the participation of minority, women and disability business enterprises on public horizontal and vertical construction projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GINA M. RAIMONDO, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby order as follows:

- A. The Working Group shall be extended for a period of one (1) year from the effective date of this order.
- B. Existing members of the Working Group shall remain. If any such member resigns or it becomes desirable to add members, the Department of Administration shall have authority to appoint new members.
- C. The duties and purpose of the Working Group remain the same as those outlined in Executive Order 17-01, signed on January 5, 2017.
- D. The Working Group meetings shall remain open to the public in such locations throughout Rhode Island in order to engage the public and ensure transparency of process.
- E. A report of findings and recommendations shall be provided to the Governor six (6) months from the date the Working Group reconvenes.

This Executive Order shall take effect immediately.

So ordered:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gina M. Raimondo", written over a horizontal line.

Gina M. Raimondo
Governor

Dated: August 6, 2018