

Minutes of the

MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Wednesday, February 7, 2018

Committee Members Present:

Tchourumoff, Rodriguez, Barber, Dorfman, Schreiber, Cunningham, Melander, Letofsky, Chávez, Elkins, Kramer, Wulff, Commers

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, Chair Tchourumoff called the regular meeting of the Council's Committee of the Whole to order at 4:04 on Wednesday, February 7, 2018.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES

It was moved by Chávez, seconded by Elkins to approve the agenda. Motion carried.

It was moved by Chávez, seconded by Elkins to approve the minutes of the January 17, 2018 meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Motion carried.

INFORMATION

2017 Joint Disparity Study

Wanda Kirkpatrick introduced David Keen and Blanca Monter from Keen Independent Research, LLC, which conducted the 2017 Minnesota Joint Disparity Study. The study examined whether there is evidence of discrimination against minority- and women-owned firms in the marketplace, and, if so, what remedies might be appropriate. The disparity study provides information to help each entity determine if current programs alone are an effective remedy, and whether additional or different measures are needed. The study period was July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2016. It was a six-month process to deliver the data to Keen Independent Research, LLC. Federal funds and fuel were not included in the study, but all other procurements were included. Keen and Monter explained the results of the study. For the period of July 2011 to June 2016, the total MBE/WBE utilization was 5.76% and availability was 16.56%, with a disparity index of 35. Keen conducted in-depth personal interviews and focus groups with 110 businesses and trade associations and performed telephone interviews with thousands of other firms. Topics included local marketplace, business assistance programs, contract and procurement policies. Access to capital was a barrier for MBE/WBEs, prompt payment was an issue, and businesses experienced exclusionary practices. Recommendations include working with participating entities to address barriers and open opportunities for minority- and women-owned firms and other small businesses and considering retaining existing programs and more fully implementing them. Keen will hold public forums in Minneapolis, St. Paul, Rochester, and Duluth throughout the month of February.

ADJOURNMENT

Business completed, the meeting adjourned at 5:52PM.

Emily Getty
Recording Secretary