THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10007

DIRECTIVE NO. 2

July 29, 2015

MINORITY AND WOMEN-OWNED BUSINESS ENTERPRISES

Income inequality is the crisis of our time. New York City is the largest in the nation, but it is also one of the most diverse. In recent years, New York County has the dubious distinction of being home to the largest dollar income gap between its wealthiest and poorest residents of any county in the country. Far too many of our residents throughout the City are low income. Our residents need government to develop and implement holistic solutions to income inequality that build the City's economy, create more good paying jobs and do it inclusively.

How government spends public dollars in a fair, efficient and equitable manner is a critical tool to reducing income inequality. We want all our businesses to grow and prosper. We also know that smaller businesses have been growing jobs fast and that Women and Minority Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs) drive local economic growth. Studies show that Minority Business Enterprises, in particular, are more likely to hire residents of low income communities. Yet for too long, New York City has had an unacceptably low award rate to M/WBEs, reflecting the impact of discrimination on the City's procurement process. That must change.

In April, I set a goal in OneNYC of awarding at least $16 billion to M/WBEs over the next decade. To meet this goal, this Administration is proposing changes to procurement rules at the local and state level to remove barriers agencies face in increasing M/WBE utilization. But meeting this goal will also take a concerted effort by City agencies to improve our record of inclusion with respect to M/WBEs now.

In furtherance of this goal, I hereby DIRECT as follows:

1. The City's MWBE Law, New York City Administrative Code § 6-129, requires that "each agency head shall designate a deputy commissioner or other executive officer to act as the agency M/WBE officer who shall be directly accountable to the agency head"

on implementation of the agency's M/WBE program. Agency heads shall ensure full compliance with this provision, shall report their compliance to the Citywide M/WBE Director and ensure that the M/WBE officers are visible, empowered and supported by the agency head to help the agency increase M/WBE utilization;

2. The Citywide M/WBE Director and the Director of the Mayor's Office of Contract Services (MOCS) shall establish a method for collecting data on M/WBE participation from all City agencies, boards, commissions, corporations and other municipal public bodies that do not currently report to MOCS on their level of M/WBE participation under the City's M/WBE Law. This collection of data shall begin as soon as is practicable, the date to be determined by the Citywide M/WBE Director in consultation with the Director of the Mayor's Office of Contract Services. All City entities will be held accountable for helping the City meet our OneNYC commitment;

3. The Citywide M/WBE Director and the Director of the Mayor's Office of Contract Services shall develop new accountability requirements to ensure that agencies covered by the City's M/WBE Law are meeting their M/WBE utilization goals;

4. The Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development in coordination with the Citywide M/WBE Director shall develop and implement appropriate programs to increase opportunities for M/WBEs in City development projects.

Bill de Blasio

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Mayor