

## **Small Business Development Commission 2006 Activities & Accomplishments**

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- 1. Increase and enhance small and disadvantage business participation in city contracts and vending opportunities.**
  - 1.1. Commission reviewed staff presentations on effectiveness of local and small business preference ordinance and SBOP. Reviewed list 05/06 preference recipients and analyzed possible sources of abuse through the use of consortiums and ‘front companies’ to obtain preference.
  - 1.2. Commission studied feasibility of making an award to recognize the prime city contractor that achieved the highest level of DBE sub-contractor participation in order to encourage improved DBE contracting with the city.
  - 1.3. Commission continued to monitor City performance with respect to annual DBE goals. The Commission made a series of recommendations to increase the participation rates among sub-contractors. Commission actively reviewed changes implied by recent District 9 Federal Court ruling regarding DBE goals.
  - 1.4. Commission reviewed a proposed City funded bonding program.
  - 1.5. Commission continued to review efforts to increase DBE participation in the Airport design/build and concession programs.
  - 1.6. Commission reviewed city plans to computerize procurement (e-procurement), and reviewed possibility of incorporating potential vendor surveys into the automated process.
  - 1.7. Commission participated in DPW focus group outreach program for small contractors that identified numerous issues and roadblocks that inhibit vendors from bidding on city contracts.
  - 1.8. Commission reviewed city contracting requirement for “experience with like entities,” and the possible reduction in vendor pools that might result from the unnecessary use of such requirements.

1.9. Commission reviewed feasibility of attracting student interns to commission sub-committees in order to assist commission work plan. Commission definitively established legality of such effort with city attorney.

**2. Improve the use and effectiveness of city programs that assist small and disadvantaged businesses.**

2.1. Commission reviewed OED proposals to implement new downtown parking fees and recommended that city council maintain the current free parking fee structure on weekends and evenings.

**3. Increase public awareness of the existence, mission and activities of the SBDC.**

3.1. Commission began releasing monthly newsletters to small business organizations.

3.2. Commission contributed critical input to city staff on proposed amendments to city policy on commission code of conduct.