



NEW YORK STATE SENATE MAJORITY MWBE TASK FORCE

NEW YORK STATE BLACK, PUERTO RICAN, HISPANIC AND ASIAN LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

ASSEMBLY SUB-COMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT OF MWBE'S

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

SUBJECT: Reform of Article 15-A
DATE: Wednesday, March 3, 2010 at 10:00 AM
LOCATION: Van Buren Hearing Room A, Legislative Office Building
PURPOSE: To create a mechanism for meaningful participation for MWBE's in both the public and private sectors

The Minority and Women Business Enterprise (MWBE) program, as set forth in Article 15-A of the Executive Law, was enacted in 1988 to increase participation in state contracts by minority and women group members. Over the years, the New York State Senate as well as New York State Assembly has held a series of hearings across the state relative to the effectiveness of the MWBE program.

The mission of the of Minority and Women's Business program is to encourage and assist state agencies in their efforts to increase participation by minority and women-owned business enterprises (MWBE's) on state contracts so as to facilitate the award of a fair share of such contracts to MWBE's.

As a result, several laws were enacted: the streamlining of the certification process, the authorization for a disparity study, the creation of statewide MWBE advocates, mentor protégé program, expansion of small business and minority and women advisory boards and requiring agencies to post contract utilization plans on the agency website.

Currently, New York State has one of the largest databases of certified firms in the nation. As of December 2009, there were over 8,000 certifications of New York State Minority and Women-owned Businesses.

However, MWBE's have historically experienced difficulty in obtaining access to capital. This is especially critical now in midst of a global credit crisis. Capital is beginning to tighten and businesses are finding it tougher to finance their growth. The ability to raise money, or capital, is essential not only for starting, but also for maintaining and expanding a healthy business.

Stronger legislation needs to be implemented that will make procurement opportunities more accessible for all New Yorkers, especially minority and women owned businesses. Ensuring that MWBE's have the resources to be competitive with larger companies is a crucial step in the overall economic development of our State.

The New York State Senate Majority MWBE Task Force, The New York State Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic and Asian legislative Caucus and the Assembly Sub-Committee on Oversight of MWBE are proud to partner together to recognize the importance of our MWBE firms in the efforts to Reform Article 15-A.

Senator Ruth Hassell-Thompson
Chairwoman
Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, Asian Legislative Caucus

Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Co-Chair
MWBE Majority Task Force

Assemblymember Crystal Peoples-Stokes
Chairwoman
Assembly Sub-Committee on Oversight of MWBE

Senator Antoine Thompson
Co-Chair
MWBE Majority Task Force

For more information please contact:

Benita Lewis, Sr. MWBE Legislative Analyst
NYS Senate Majority MWBE Task Force
E-Mail: blewis@senate.state.ny.us
Phone: (518) 455-2919
Fax: (518) 426-6995

PUBLIC HEARING REPLY FORM

Persons wishing to present testimony at the public hearing on reforming Article 15-A are requested to complete this reply form as soon as possible and mail or fax to:

Benita Lewis
Sr. Economic Development/MWBE Analyst
Room 430M - Capitol
Albany, New York 12248
Email: blewis@senate.state.ny.us
Phone: (518) 455-2919
Fax: (518) 455-6995

- I plan to attend the following public hearing on Reforming Article 15-A on March 3, 2010
- I plan to make a public statement at the hearing. My statement will be limited to 10 minutes of minutes, and I will answer any questions which may arise. I will provide 10 copies of my prepared statement.
- I do not plan to attend the above hearing.
- I will require assistance and/or handicapped accessibility information. Please specify the type of assistance required:

NAME: _____
TITLE: _____
ORGANIZATION: _____
ADDRESS: _____
E-MAIL: _____
FAX TELEPHONE: _____