



Executive Order No. EO2021-0002

DECLARATION AND ORDER REGARDING ADVANCE POSTING OF BIDS IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY MWBE CONTRACTING PROGRAM

WHEREAS, in 2012 the County established the County Equity Commission (the “Equity Commission”) and the Citizens’ Advisory Council on Equity (the “Equity Council”) to review and report on equity efforts undertaken by the County and the delivery of County services, as well as the collection of relevant data; and,

WHEREAS, in 2014, the County conducted a disparity study to determine whether discrimination existed in the County’s awarding contracts to minority and women owned businesses (the “2014 Study”); and,

WHEREAS, the 2014 Study showed long-standing disparities did exist and recommended the implementation of various race- and gender-neutral efforts as well as limited race- and gender-conscious initiatives; and,

WHEREAS, in 2016 the County adopted a series of race- and gender-neutral efforts concurrently with limited race- and gender-conscious initiatives, including extensive business outreach, as an outgrowth of the County’s small business development programs; and,

WHEREAS, in January 2019 the County engaged Griffin and Strong, P.C. (“GSPC”) to conduct a disparity study of County contracting during the period 2014 through 2018 (the “2020 Study”); and,

WHEREAS, the 2020 Study showed that the County’s race- and gender-neutral efforts and limited race- and gender-conscious initiatives that arose from the 2014 Study had not sufficiently addressed the race and gender disparities; and,

WHEREAS, the 2020 Study provides the additional, legally-necessary support to institute more robust race- and gender-conscious programs and offers eight specific, legally-defensible recommendations to reduce the disparity in County contracting with minority- and women-owned business enterprises (“MWBE”); and,

WHEREAS, posting bids for County goods and services as early as possible can allow for greater outreach to MWBEs regarding County contracting opportunities and allows MWBEs more time to evaluate bids and prepare bid responses.


NOW, THEREFORE, I, Armond Budish, County Executive of Cuyahoga County, Ohio, by virtue of the powers vested in me under Article 18, Section 3 of the Ohio Constitution, by the Charter of Cuyahoga County, and the laws of Cuyahoga County and the State of Ohio, do hereby order and declare as follows:

1. All County Departments under the jurisdiction of the County Executive are hereby directed to compile the Department's forecast of contracting and purchasing opportunities for a period of, at a minimum, the following 24 months. Such forecasts shall be posted on the OPD website not less than biannually beginning July 1, 2021. Each such posting shall identify the originating department and shall include a brief description, estimated amount, and estimated bid date. In addition, OPD shall, beginning no later than July 1, 2021, post on its website all annually reoccurring County supplies purchases.

2. All County departments under the jurisdiction of the County Executive are hereby directed to exercise all reasonable efforts, in coordination with OPD, to begin, no later than July 1, 2021, posting on the OPD website bids for County goods and services no fewer than 30 days prior to the bid opening date.

3. This Executive Order shall go into immediate effect upon my signature. The original copy of this Executive Order shall be filed with the Cuyahoga County Department of Law, and a copy shall be filed with the Clerk of County Council.

I have signed this Executive Order on this 7 day of January 2021, in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio.


Armond Budish, County Executive
Cuyahoga County, Ohio

Attested to by,


Gregory G. Huth, Director of Law