

Dr. Martin Karp, Vice Chair

**SUBJECT: BUSINESS ENTERPRISE PROGRAM FOR DISADVANTAGED
BUSINESS OWNERS NOT CLASSIFIED AS MINORITY WHEN
THE DISPARITY STUDY WAS CONDUCTED**

COMMITTEE: FISCAL ACCOUNTABILITY & GOVERNMENT RELATIONS

**LINK TO STRATEGIC
BLUEPRINT: EFFECTIVE AND SUSTAINABLE BUSINESS PRACTICES**

On November 21, 2012, the Board determined that a new Disparity Study would need to be conducted in order to continue to institute and maintain a viable Minority and Women Business Enterprise ("M/WBE") program. The Disparity Study addressed (1) whether there is a disparity in the utilization of M/WBEs in the District's procurement of construction and professional services, (2) whether any disparity is the product or result of past discrimination or other factors related to race or gender based discrimination, (3) whether any disparity can be effectively ameliorated through race and gender neutral programs, and (4) if the appropriate remedy is a race or gender conscious program, how the program should be narrowly tailored to remedy the current effects of past discrimination and conform to constitutional guidelines.

For the purposes of the disparity study, businesses classified as minority and woman owned business enterprises M/WBE are firms that are at least 51 percent owned and controlled by members of one of five groups: African Americans, Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans, Native Americans, and nonminority female. Businesses owned by other racial and/or ethnic groups not classified above, for purposes of the study, were placed in the non-minority category.

Further, at its Board meeting on September 9, 2015, the Board Approved Agenda Item G-2, in which The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida adopted new Policy 6320.06 Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in Business Operations and Practices. This policy requires that relevant data be gathered to support the development and implementation of additional administrative directives, procedures, processes, and programs to address any artificial, perceived or actual barriers that may prevent vendors or firms from engaging in business opportunities with the Board, and includes the authority to provide preferences and incentives in the District's contractor and vendor selection processes.

In order to strengthen the School Board's commitment to diversity and inclusion, this agenda item proposes exploration of a Board policy, amendment or procedure that will incentivize and/or increase participation with non-minority businesses that have suffered social and economic disadvantages.

This agenda item is seeking authorization for the Superintendent, in collaboration with the School Board Attorney, to explore the feasibility of implementing a business enterprise program for disadvantaged business owners that were not classified as minority when the disparity study was conducted, and to report his findings back to the School Board by October 10, 2018.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY
DR. MARTIN KARP:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, authorize the Superintendent in collaboration with the School Board Attorney to explore, in accordance with applicable Board policies and federal and State laws, the feasibility of establishing and implementing a business enterprise program for disadvantaged business owners that were not classified as minority when the Disparity Study was conducted, and to report his findings to the School Board by October 10, 2018.