

Dr. Dorothy Bendross-Mindingall, Board Member

**SUBJECT: LOBBYIST FEES FOR MICRO BUSINESS ENTERPRISES**

**COMMITTEE: INNOVATION, EFFICIENCY, & GOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS**

**LINK TO STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK: FINANCIAL EFFICIENCY & STABILITY**

The School Board of Miami-Dade County recently received a draft of a disparity study commissioned to cover Miami-Dade County Public Schools' (M-DCPS) capital construction program. In this report the authors commend M-DCPS on their effort to increase inclusion, but suggest that there is still more work to do before the district reaches parity in construction contracting. In its recent efforts M-DCPS has managed to award contracts under the auspices of its new Small/Micro Business Enterprise Program, negotiate Minority/Women Business Enterprise goals on construction projects, and through an intense outreach campaign the Office of Economic Opportunity of M-DCPS is now becoming as familiar as the nightly news with the Miami-Dade County business community.

In an effort to continue the free flow of access, information, and opportunity to businesses throughout Miami-Dade County this item asks the School Board to direct the Superintendent of Schools to waive lobbyist fees for firms currently certified as Micro Business Enterprises (MBE) for Miami-Dade County Public Schools (M-DCPS) for six months; at which point the Superintendent will provide a report on its impact and a recommendation whether to cease or continue.

Currently School Board Policy 8150: *Lobbyists* defines lobbying as communicating with members of the School Board and district staff for the purpose of doing business with the school district. While most firms hire lobbyists to provide them access, the smallest firms build these relationships themselves and they are often burdened by the registration fee. MBEs are firms that meet a lower revenue threshold than Small Business Enterprises (SBE). This item will only affect approximately 157 Micro Business Enterprises currently certified with the District.

**ACTION PROPOSED BY**

**DR. DOROTHY BENDROSS MINDINGALL:**

That The School Board of Miami-Dade County, Florida, direct the Superintendent to waive lobbyist registration fees for Micro Business Enterprises certified with Miami-Dade County Public Schools for six months.

**Replacement**

**H-11**

**(Withdrawn – 01/08/2014)**