



City of Columbus

Office of City Clerk
90 West Broad Street
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Legislation Text

File #: 1639-2015, **Version:** 1

BACKGROUND: This legislation authorizes the Executive Director of the Equal Business Opportunity Office (EBOCO) to apply to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Division of Minority Business Development Agency for a grant to establish a Minority Business Enterprise Center (MBEC) in the City of Columbus. The MBEC is expected to provide client services in the following areas: Global Business Development, Access to Capital and Finance Management, Access to Contracts, Access to Markets, Strategic Business Consulting.

The EBOCO of Columbus will work collaboratively with the Columbus Urban League, a financial institution and a number of other agencies who support the growth and development of minority owned businesses to submit a grant application that will facilitate and implement the MBEC goals.

The Department of Commerce, Division of Minority Business Developments will be seeking applications in July - August 2015. The grant amounts will range from \$300,000 to \$500,000 annually over a three year cycle. The award will be made at the end of 2015 to begin in 2016. The City of Columbus, Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office will serve as the lead applicant and will identify additional industry partners as necessary.

This legislation is submitted as an emergency measure in order to meet the grant application deadline.

FISCAL IMPACT: There is no fiscal impact for this legislation.

To authorize the Executive Director of the Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office to apply to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency to establish a Minority Business Enterprise Center in 2016 in the City of Columbus.

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus, Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office, the Columbus Urban League and other industry partners desire to complete and submit an application for a Minority Business Enterprise Center; and

WHEREAS, City of Columbus, Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office will serve as the lead applicant; and

WHEREAS, the City of Columbus, Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office, and the Columbus Urban League have experience working in the area of minority business development, minority business advocacy and minority business creation; and

WHEREAS, a successful application through the competitive review process could result in an award of up to \$500,000 to the City of Columbus, Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office for the creation and implementation of a Minority Business Enterprise Center (MBEC); and

WHEREAS, participation in this Program would support and enhance the goals of the Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office and facilitate expanded partnerships with other industry peers that support minority owned businesses in Central Ohio; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the City of Columbus whereby it is immediately necessary to authorize the Executive Director of the Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office to apply to the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency for a Grant and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with The Columbus Urban League in order to meet the grant application deadline, thereby preserving the public health, peace, property, safety and welfare; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF COLUMBUS:

Section 1. That the Executive Director of the Equal Business Opportunity Office is hereby authorized to apply to the U.S. Department of Commerce Minority Business Development Agency for a grant to implement a Minority Business Enterprise Center in Columbus, Ohio and enter into a Memorandum of Agreement with The Columbus Urban League in conjunction with the grant application.

Section 2. That the Council of the City of Columbus authorizes the Executive Director of the Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office to serve as the official representative of the City of Columbus application to participate in the Program, and provide all information and documentation required in said Application for the submission to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Minority Business Development Agency.

Section 3. That the Executive Director of the Equal Business Opportunity Commission Office is authorized to participate in the Program, comply with program guidelines, and provide necessary assurances.

Section 4. That this ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after the earliest period allowed by law.