



Legislation Text

File #: 1770-2010, **Version:** 1

BACKGROUND: The Diversity Bridge Initiative provides direct programming or a link to the appropriate program for all women/minority business enterprises (W/MBEs) no matter what their business cycle status is - start-up to growth to mature. Our region is a diverse one, and its economic opportunities should be available to all of its diverse business owners. Many larger businesses and organizations in the Columbus region have embraced the philosophy of Diversity Bridge, are committed to contracting with W/MBEs, and would prefer that these contracts be with local businesses.

The Chamber in concert with its partners, serves as the centralized point of contact to assure successful implementation of the programs and activities of The Diversity Bridge Initiative. It is believed, that with the Chamber serving in this role, it will encourage collaboration among the organizations/agencies that service minority businesses, thereby eliminating unnecessary redundancy and enhance service. Through the Diversity Bridge web portal, the Chamber desires to provide more jobs and build wealth in the W/MBE community by creating a more efficient and effective service delivery network; and build capacity within the minority business community.

This legislation authorizes the expenditure of \$50,000.00 from the General Fund and authorizes the Director of the Department of Development to enter into an agreement with the Columbus Chamber for administrative costs associated with the services referenced above.

Emergency action is requested to allow the Diversity Bridge Initiative to continue uninterrupted.

FISCAL IMPACT: The \$50,000.00 for the administrative costs will come from the 2010 General Fund.

To authorize the Director of the Department of Development to enter into an agreement with the Columbus Chamber for administrative costs to continue the Diversity Bridge Initiative; to authorize the expenditure of \$50,000.00 from the General Fund; and to declare an emergency. (\$50,000.00)

WHEREAS, the Diversity Bridge Initiative provides direct programming or a link to the appropriate program for all women/minority business enterprises (W/MBEs) no matter what their business cycle status is - start-up to growth to mature; and

WHEREAS, the Columbus Chamber in concert with its partners, serves as the centralized point of contact to assure successful implementation of the programs and activities of The Diversity Bridge Initiative; and

WHEREAS, through the Diversity Bridge web portal, the Columbus Chamber desires to provide more jobs and build wealth in the W/MBE community by creating a more efficient and effective service delivery network; and build capacity within the minority business community; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Development desires to enter into a contract with the Columbus Chamber to provide administrative costs associated with the Diversity Bridge Initiative; and

WHEREAS, emergency action is requested to allow the Columbus Chamber to continue the Diversity Bridge Initiative uninterrupted; and

WHEREAS, an emergency exists in the usual daily operation of the Department of Development in that it is immediately necessary to expend funds for administrative costs associated with the Columbus Chamber, Diversity Bridge Initiative, all for the immediate preservation of 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 Director of the Department of Development is hereby authorized and directed to enter into an administrative contract with the Columbus Chamber in order to continue the Diversity Bridge Initiative.

Section 2. That this contract is awarded pursuant to Section 329.15 of the Columbus City Codes, 1959 as amended.

Section 3. That for the purpose stated in Section 1, the expenditure of \$50,000.00 or so much thereof as may be necessary from the Department of Development, Economic Development Division, Division 44-02, General Fund, Fund 010, Object Level One 03, Object Level Three 3336, OCA 442030.

Section 4. That for the reasons stated in the preamble hereto, which is hereby made a part hereof, this ordinance is hereby declared to be an emergency measure and shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and approval by the Mayor, or ten days after passage if the Mayor neither approves nor vetoes the same.