

MOTION

Los Angeles has long been a leader in advocating for diversity and true opportunity. Over the years, this City's leadership has been strengthened with the inclusion of women, people of color, and other underrepresented populations. Yet with all the progress that has been made, we still see great disparity between the actual diversity of residents and enterprises in Los Angeles. This includes the makeup of our elected leadership, the rank and file of many of our City agencies, and the businesses we partner with to provide services to and for the City of Los Angeles.

One clear opportunity to include more women, minority, and underrepresented businesses lies with the City's Bureau of Sanitation. In order to effectively provide recycling, diversion, and waste management services to Angelenos, the Bureau has released various RFP's and contract opportunities. As part of those procurement processes and consistent with our adopted policies and requirements, proposers must also engage in concentrated sub-contractor outreach. While those efforts have shown that companies clearly exist to effectively meet the City's service needs, it is equally clear - and increasingly disappointing - is that the makeup of the waste and recycling industry does not at this point reflect the diversity of our City.

The most recent example of this lies in the recommendations of the pending Commercial and Multi-Family Franchise System, which indicate that women, minority, and other business enterprise sub-contractor participation rates can potentially be as low as 2.23% for Women Owned Businesses and 2.98% for Minority Business. These numbers appear dismally low, particularly for a system that has a potential contract value of over \$3.6 Billion.

The City and its business partners can and must do better to not only reflect the actual diversity of our City, but to also truly provide opportunities for participation and advancement of women and other underrepresented populations, with efforts beyond perfunctory opportunities such as community outreach.

The Mayor of Los Angeles, through his Executive Directives and his focused appointments to our various boards and commissions, has shown his commitment to diversity. The Los Angeles City Council, through its development and adoption of various policies and legislation are equally committed to the responsibility we collectively share for diversity and equal opportunity. With the magnitude of the Multi-Family Franchise system, and the value of other service needs and procurement opportunities with the Bureau of Sanitation, action is urgently needed to ensure women, minority, and other underrepresented groups have true opportunity to contribute their work ethic, innovativeness, and talent to address and support the needs of Los Angeles.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation immediately report to the Energy and Environment Committee with options and strategies to promptly strengthen and increase the participation rates of existing and new women and minority businesses in the City's recycling, diversion, and waste management efforts, including the Zero Waste LA Franchise System.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Bureau of Sanitation report on a strategy to support the incubation, development, and true participation of new or growing women and minority businesses in any continuing or future procurement and contracting opportunities with the City in all fields and areas of recycling and solid waste management.

I FURTHER MOVE that Bureau of Sanitation work with the solid waste industry in the City to identify ways to develop and implement a strategy to create real opportunities for career advancement for women, minorities, and others that are underrepresented in the professional and leadership levels of the solid waste industry.

PRESENTED BY: Nury Hernandez Martinez
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Councilwoman, Sixth District

SECONDED BY:

Jim Cordillo

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ORIGINAL