

To the Mayor and Members of the City Council**April 3, 2020**

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**SUBJECT: TRANSITION OF THE OFFICE OF BUSINESS DIVERSITY**

The Office of Business Diversity is a division of the Economic Development Department with a primary function of helping certified small, minority-owned and women-owned business enterprises (S/M/WBE) gain access to the direct contracting and sub-contracting opportunities offered by city procurement in compliance with the City Council approved Business Diversity Enterprise (BDE) Ordinance No. 20020-12-2011.

In order to align the City's focus on diversity, equity and inclusion across the organization, the Office of Business Diversity will formally join the newly created Diversity & Inclusion Department effective April 4, 2020. The Economic Development Department will continue its focus on small business development and will work with the Office of Business Diversity on capacity building efforts for S/M/WBEs. All chamber of commerce relationships will still be managed by the Economic Development Department including the oversight of the annual minority chamber contracts.

The Diversity & Inclusion Department will assume compliance of all contracting and sub-contracting opportunities under the City's BDE ordinance, oversight of the M/WBE Advisory Committee and will provide any policy recommendations related to the recently completed draft of the Availability & Disparity Study.

Both departments will work jointly on recommendations from the Race & Culture Task Force to ensure that disparities in wages, job training and S/M/WBE utilization continue to be addressed as a part of the City's overall initiatives.

If you have any questions concerning this information, please contact Robert Sturns, Economic Development Director at 817-392-2663 or robert.sturns@fortworthtexas.gov.

David Cooke
City Manager