



CITY OF PITTSBURGH
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MAYOR ED GAINNEY

December 3, 2024

President and Members of Council
City-County Building
414 Grant Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Dear President and Members of Council:

Enclosed is proposed legislation authorizing the Mayor to enter into Agreement or Agreements thereto, with MGT Impact Solutions, LLC for services relating to conducting a business disparity causation analysis and economic impact analysis study on behalf of the Pittsburgh Regional Disparity Study Consortium, comprised of the City of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, Housing Authority of the City of Pittsburgh (HACP), Urban Redevelopment Authority (URA), Parking Authority, Pittsburgh Water, and the Stadium Authority, to ensure that minority-owned, woman-owned (“MWBEs”), and LGBTQ-owned (LGBTQBE) businesses are afforded equitable opportunities to participate in local government and other contracts within our region. Study Consortium members are keenly interested in ensuring that their public contracting and purchasing funds are not spent in a manner that in any way contributes to or perpetuates the effects of marketplace discrimination.

The last disparity study completed by the City of Pittsburgh was conducted over two decades ago, with data being used from 1996-1998. The new study will provide enhanced participation goals and give the legal foundation necessary to sanction prime contractors that do not meet or even demonstrate a good faith effort to meet our goals. This completion of the study will be a critical tool to help create more equitable opportunities for small diverse businesses in our city and region by:

- Determining the relative availability of minority-owned and women-owned businesses that are ready, willing and able to do business with the Study Consortium members within the relevant market area(s);
- Identifying the nature of, and determines the extent to which, any barriers may have resulted in disparities in the utilization of available M/WBEs in public and private sector contracts;
- Analyzing the contracting and procurement data of each Study Consortium member to determine its respective M/WBE utilization, as well as the Study Consortium’s collective utilization as a whole, of minority-owned and women-owned business enterprises;
- Determining the extent to which any identified disparities in the utilization of available minority and women owned businesses by any member of the Study Consortium, and by the Study Consortium as a whole, might be impacted by discrimination;

- Identifying and summarizes related findings from previous disparity studies and research encompassing the relevant marketplace from which Study Consortium members routinely purchase goods and services;
- Analyzing the effectiveness of various race- and gender-neutral remedies and practices previously undertaken in the relevant marketplace; and
- Recommending programs, policies, and practices that are narrowly tailored to remedy the effects of any identified discrimination and to reduce or eliminate any other marketplace barriers that adversely affect the utilization of such minority and women owned businesses by Study Consortium members.

We are requesting a waiver of rule 8 for this legislation. The waiver is being requested to ensure that the Mayor's Office receives authorization to enter into an agreement before the end of the last City Council meeting, so the encumber funds budgeted in the 2024 Operating Budget for the disparity study are utilized for this effort. Thank you in advance for your favorable consideration of this important legislation.

Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ed Gainey', is positioned above the typed name.

Ed Gainey, Mayor
City of Pittsburgh
Pronouns: He/Him/His