



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Executive Office of the Mayor
Office of the Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development



The Honorable Kenyan McDuffie JAN 13 2020
Chairman
Committee on Business and Economic Development
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 119
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Chairman McDuffie,

We are releasing the ***Disparity Report: Framework and Recommendations*** produced by Dr. Carolyn Rudd and Associates, LLC, a District certified business enterprise (CBE). This report is in response to legislation introduced by Councilmember Kenyan McDuffie, Chair of the Committee on Business and Economic Development, that was included as part of the Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Support Act of 2018.

Per the legislation, the District was to commission a disparity study. A disparity study is a critical tool in assessing whether discrimination exists towards minority and women-owned businesses when competing for government agency contracts in the marketplace. The legislation required the following:

- Evaluate if there is a specific evidentiary foundation against minority and women-owned businesses;
- Assess if there are disparities between the availability and utilization of minority and women-owned prime contractors and subcontractors; and
- Determine if there are statistically significant disparities in the utilization of minority and women-owned businesses by prime contractors on government-assisted projects/contracts awarded.

The contractor helped the District determine that we do not currently have the data to complete a disparity study, and identified what would be needed to complete this important undertaking. The attached report outlines the process of how this document transitioned from a disparity study to a report with high-level recommendations for how the District should align its data collection among independent and non-independent agencies in a way that will better position the District for a future disparity study.

Since the completion of this report, the City Administrator Young has convened a working group consisting of Department of Small and Local Business Development (DSLBD), Office of the Chief Technology Officer (OCTO), Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP), and Department of General Services (DGS) to develop a realistic timeline for standardization of data collection. As of today, this working group has closed the data gaps possible with existing data and systems. This group will now begin to collect the new data needed to complete the disparity study.

John Falcicchio
Interim Deputy Mayor



Since day one of the Bowser Administration, Mayor Bowser has made data transparency and system efficiency a high priority for the District. Under her leadership, the District has implemented initiatives that are pushing the District forward, some of which are recommended in this report. Such improvements include:

- Creating the District's Contracts and Procurement Transparency Portal;
- Making enhancements to the District Enterprise System's (DES) user interface and overall experience while expanding data collection across all District agencies; and
- Advancing the systems and infrastructures the District uses to monitor and award contracts.

In keeping with her commitment of propelling District residents and businesses towards their fair shot at prosperity, Mayor Muriel Bowser and her Administration continue to use technology and innovation to further the District's transparency and efficiency in all District government services delivered in our great city.

We look forward to continuing to keep the District's robust business community engaged as we advance together.



John Falcicchio
Interim Deputy Mayor for Planning and Economic Development (DMPED)