**Minority Business Initiative Advisory Board**

***October Meeting Minutes***

**October 14, 2020**

1:00 am – 2:00 am

Remotely Held by Teams Meeting Software

Hartford CT, Connecticut

**Attendance**

* Board Members Present: Howard Hill, David Lehman, Doug McCrory, Roberta Hoskie, Avery Gaddis, Leticia Colon de Mejias, Pedro Soto, Fred McKinney, George Mathanool
* Members Absent: None
* Quorum: Yes
* DECD Staff Present: Toni Karnes, Glendowlyn Thames and Sheila Hummel

**Welcome and Introductions:**

Commissioner Lehman welcomed the group and opened the meeting at 1:05 PM

**Minutes:**

Commissioner Lehman asked for a motion to accept the September meeting minutes Howard Hill seconded. Motion passed and September minutes were accepted

**Workforce Development Presentation:**

Kelli Vallieres provided the Board with an update on the Workforce Development Initiative currently being housed at DECD. She reviewed the strategic plan developed. She noted that her office was currently working on submitting grants to secure funding in order to successful address the areas of concentration outlined by the Governor’s office. She also noted that she and her team were working closely with the 5 Workforce Development offices around the state. After some discussion several Board members requested to get electronic copies of the Workforce Strategic Plan and asked if they could contact Kelli directly.

**BBA Proposal for Funding:**

Sheila Hummel advised Board that the BBA proposal was time sensitive and needed to be taken up for a vote. Ms. Thames asked for the amount of the request and what services did the scope of services cover. Ms. Hummel advised the group that the BBA proposal was in the amount of $400,000 and would cover providing some MBRLF outreach services, the development of a statewide list of minority businesses in CT and provided technical assistance to businesses seeking capital. After much discussion, the Board decided to proceed with an award of $200,000 and to reassess the Board’s needs as well as the applicant’s performance at the end of 6 months.

**Strategic Planning Session:**

Toni Karnes advised the group that the MBI Board strategic planning session had been planned for November. She noted that due to COVID concerns, the retreat would be virtual as opposed to in-person. She noted that the Consultants would be contacting individual members to complete a short survey in preparation for the retreat. After some discussion the group moved on, most noting that they were looking forward to the retreat.

**Financial Report:**

Sheila Hummel reviewed the Financial Report noting the balances remaining to be invested. After some discussion, the group noted that the retreat would be helpful in setting direction.

**Other Business:**

None

**Adjourn:**

Commissioner Lehman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting Howard Hill seconded. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 2:07 PM.