**Minority Business Initiative Advisory Board**

***September Meeting Minutes***

**Thursday, October 21, 2021**

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM

Remotely Held by Teams Meeting Software

Hartford CT, Connecticut

**Attendance**

* Board Members Present: Howard Hill, Glendowlyn Thames, Leticia Colon de Mejias, Roberta Hoskie; David Lehman, Avery Gaddis, Doug McCrory
* Members Absent: George Mathanool, Pedro Soto
* Quorum: Yes
* DECD Staff Present: Alvetta Spencer, Sheila Hummel , Ed Bona and George Norfleet

**Welcome and Introductions:**

 Commissioner Lehman welcomed the group and opened the meeting at 1:04 PM

**Minutes:**

The Board voted on September minutes, minutes approved.

**MBI Future Funding:**

* The meeting centered on the future funding for the MBI. Commissioner Lehman assured the Board that funding will be provided through the Action Plan new initiatives such as the Community Investment Fund.
* The Board wanted to have a dedicated direct legislative funding such as the Green Bank, which can only occur through legislation. They voted on Leticia’s motion and approved to get dedicated, steady funding for their work like Green Bank does.
* There was a discussion on how to make HEDCO more successful in providing the funding to small businesses. A motion was passed to invite HEDCO to the November 18th meeting in order to provide the Board with overview of their funding process and explain what challenges they face in approving loans.

**Financial Report:** Sheila Hummel presented the financial and program reports.

**Adjourn:**

 Commissioner Lehman asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed and meeting was adjourned at 2:05 PM.