

PDC

PORTLAND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

DATE: January 26, 2011
TO: Board of Commissioners
FROM: Bruce A. Warner, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Report Number 11-03
Update on PDC Diversity Initiatives

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED

None – information only.

SUMMARY

In order to keep the Board apprised of diversity and social equity initiatives, John Jackley, Director of Communications & Business Equity, will report on progress and accomplishments for 2010 and discuss next steps to continue to achieve the Commission's goals.

Mr. Jackley will provide an overview of PDC's partnerships, the status of North/Northeast Economic Development Initiative efforts, as well as preliminary annual diversity in contracting and workforce training and hiring results. Additionally, Mr. Jackley will report on the City of Portland's Disparity Study and provide information on PDC's internal diversity efforts.

This briefing will be an opportunity for PDC's Board to provide guidance towards future initiatives.

BACKGROUND

The Board adopted Resolution No. 6561, the Business and Workforce Equity Policy on February 27, 2008, with the objective of ensuring fair and equitable opportunities to Portland's diverse populations participating in PDC-funded projects. The Policy was amended on January 29, 2009 through Resolution No. 6667 and incorporated sections from the Construction Wage Policy and added workforce goals recommended by the Workforce Diversity Strategies Committee.

A second policy amendment on February 24, 2010, Resolution No. 6775, added language to extend the Workforce Equity Program to Intergovernmental Agreements (IGAs) and added a "Prompt Payment" requirement for contractors and developers. The adopted policy amendments improved clarity and assisted with administration of the policy.

On January 27, 2010, Resolution No. 6767, the Board voted to incorporate a Social Equity goal into the PDC Strategic Plan. . The social equity goal are supported by key actions, outcomes,

Access and Equity, that require PDC to leverage dollars and relationships. PDC staff continue to expand relationships with Portland's cultural communities through a variety of vehicles, including technical assistance agreements with the minority chambers of commerce, partnerships with capacity-building non-profits, and innovative outreach methods.

Further demonstrating PDC's commitment to inclusive and transparent contractor and developer evaluation and selection processes, the Board voted to adopt Resolution No. 6765 on January 27, 2010 to include at least one minority evaluator on all formal solicitation proposal evaluation committees.

Also on January 27, 2010, the Board authorized the Small Contractors Loan Insurance Program (Resolution 6766), a new financial product to support small contractors engaged in green development and energy efficiency projects. This particular financial product is an innovative use of unrestricted federal dollars for lending working capital in the form of a revolving loan to small, minority, and locally owned businesses.

In March, staff intends to brief the Board and provide detailed reports on annual diversity in contracting and workforce results.