

## Petition Requesting Chapel Hill Increase its MWBE Contracting Targets

The use of Minority and Women Business Enterprise/Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (MWBE/DBE) contracting targets by governments at all levels has been shown to both support existing businesses and facilitate the creation of new ones. The Town of Chapel Hill currently has a target of 10 percent for such businesses.

Some of our neighboring jurisdictions have significantly higher targets: The City of Durham has a target of 25 percent, the City of Greensboro has a target of 18 percent, and the City of Raleigh has a target of 15 percent.

In the near future, the Town of Chapel Hill will be embarking on two major construction projects: The East Rosemary Street parking deck and the Municipal Service Center, each with a budget in excess of \$30 million.

Accordingly, we request that the Town Manager move forward with reviewing and revising the Town's procurement policies to achieve a minimum target for MWBE/DBE participation of 15 percent initially, with a goal of increasing the target over time to 25 percent and ensure that at least these initial targets are applied to both the East Rosemary Street deck and the Municipal Service Center. The business directed to MWBE/DBE firms from these projects could easily exceed \$9-10 million.

In order to assist in reaching these new targets, it is also suggested that the Town explore partnerships with entities such as the NC Department of Transportation and the US Department of Housing and Urban Development, as well as our neighboring jurisdictions, which have programs that assist in reaching out to and qualifying potential MWBE/DBEs.

It is also requested that Town staff inform applicants of the Town's MWBE/DBE goals when they present the Town with a concept plan or development application and suggest that these targets be met for their projects.

Finally, it is also requested that there be reporting to the Council in the first quarter of each fiscal year on an annual basis on the extent to which targets have been met and/or increased and the remedial actions proposed if targets have not been met.

Allen Buansi  
Michael Parker  
Karen Stegman