



CITY OF OAKLAND

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COUNCILMEMBER LOREN TAYLOR
DISTRICT 6

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AGENDA MEMORANDUM

Date: January 21, 2021
To: Oakland City Councilmembers, Staff and Members of the Public
From: Councilmember Loren Taylor
Subject: Local Business Empowerment Through Contracting (LBETC) Costing

Colleagues on the Committee, Staff and Members of the Public:

The 2017 Race and Gender Disparities study and recent evidence continues to show significant barriers that limit our local small businesses from accessing contracts and procurement opportunities with the City, despite the existence of Oakland's Local and Small Local Business Enterprise Program. The Local Business Empowerment Through Contracting (LBETC) ordinance was informed by numerous conversations with local Oakland business owners, including Black and Women-owned businesses who experience significant disparities according to the 2017 study. The ordinance was approved unanimously on first reading at the December 15, 2020 City Council meeting and was considered for final passage by the City Council on January 12, 2021.

During the January 12, 2021 second reading of the ordinance, some Councilmembers voted to delay passage and implementation of the ordinance for an additional month despite staff's statement that the proposed changes were minimal and are within the scope of staff's current duties. The purpose of the accompanying Informational Report is to provide data regarding the requested costing analysis including staff impacts and dollar amounts in anticipation that the information will resolve any Councilmember concerns about the impact of this legislation on our staff.

Specifically, City Staff has concluded that this legislation which is mostly updates to forms and a program manual will amount to less than \$4,000 of incremental costs. This is a negligible cost compared to the significant benefit that Oakland and Oakland businesses will see through tens of millions of dollars in increased business opportunities available to Oakland businesses and the reduction of well-documented race and gender disparities in contracting. These benefits will only increase as we grow the volume and capacity of qualified local contractors and professional services providers based in Oakland providing jobs to Oaklanders.

I also want to recognize that this request by some Councilmembers for specific costing information and analysis of the impact on staff should not be isolated to this legislation, but



instead should be adopted as a standard requirement of all legislation brought forth to the Council detailing the impacts on our budget and our staff.

I respectfully ask for your support of this important legislation by accepting the informational report, forwarding it to the City Council meeting on February 16 with the acknowledgement that the costs to the City are manageable and should not inhibit final adoption of this ordinance to address disparities and help our businesses in this critical time of much needed economic recovery.

Yours in partnership and in service of Oakland,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Loren Taylor".

Loren Taylor
Councilmember District 6