



**Charlotte Business INCLUSION**  
**Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**Wednesday, April 8th, 2026**  
**10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.**

- I. **Attendance:** Jerome Marez, Kim Lam, Zahn Patin, Christina Jarrett, Erlan Martinez, Candice Gaddy, Fitz Light, Gerald Carr, Lakeisha Womack, Jeremy Johnson, Jason Deans.

**Staff:** Venesia Draughn, Steven Coker, Nyema Mathis, Kimberly Tibbs, Jasmine Timmons

- II. **Welcome:** Steven Cooker opened the meeting at 10:11. We did an introduction of the CBI team and the CBIAC committee.

III. **CBI Updates: Steven Cooker**

- Within the organization, we are still working on tweaks with our B2G system.
- The annual report is looking to be brought in by the close of April. It's looking better than last year.
- Staffing. CBI is a team of 9. Bringing in a Certification Specialist. Hopefully, they will be selected at our next meeting.
- Outreach efforts are moving ahead.
  - Business Connections: We normally do this in the spring (policy to prosperity event had us push it out in September).
  - Small Business Month: Crowns of Enterprise, May 7<sup>th</sup> 5-8

IV. **Legal and Legislative Updates (Lina James)**

- No major updates. Always available for questions.

**VI. Sub Committee Reports:**

**Impact & Accountability:** Jerome Marez shared that they are continuing to move forward with gathering information. General overview: "measure and evaluate the tangible outcomes of CBI programs and initiatives on MWBE's and the broader business community, and to promote trust and program integrity through adherence to CBI goals highlighting equitable access to resources."

**Community Outreach:** (Technical Difficulties)

**Workforce Development Committee:** Continues to prioritize leveraging programs to:

- Increase MWSBE participation in city workforce and contracting initiatives.
- Improve access to training resources and workforce pipelines for small businesses.
- Support business readiness and technical assistance for firms pursuing city contracts.
- Strengthening partnerships between workforce programs and MWSBE business development efforts.

The committee remains focused on aligning these city initiatives with strategies that help MWSBE businesses grow, compete, and build sustainable workforce capacity.

**VII. New Business:**

**Next Meeting:** May 13<sup>th</sup> (virtual)

**VIII. Adjournment:** Concerning technical difficulties, the meeting concluded early around 11:00.

|    | Action Items | Assigned To | Due Date |
|----|--------------|-------------|----------|
| 1. |              |             |          |
| 2. |              |             |          |
| 4. |              |             |          |
| 5. |              |             |          |

**The action items captured from the April 8th, 2026, CBIAC Committee Meeting are as follows:**

April 8th, 2026, CBIAC Meeting Summary and Action Items submitted by:

Jasmine Timmons 4/8/2026