



Charlotte Business INclusion
Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, September 10, 2025
10:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

- I. **Attendance:** Zahn Patin, Candice Gaddy, Christina Jarrett, Lakesha Womack, Jerome Marez, Joaquin Soria, Jason Deans, *Jeremy Johnson, Raghu Koth, Gary Beal, Kim Lam, Kym Gardner,

Absent: Erlan Martinez
- II. **Welcome:** President Patin opened the meeting at 10:01 Candice Gaddy motioned, and Christina Jarrett seconded the motion. Zahn also welcomed the newest member Jeremy Johnson who joins us from the Black Chamber.
- III. **Stephanie Ayers:** Focus Group; CBI staff left the call and Jasmine the Liaison stayed on to record. This meeting will be dedicated to the focus group with BBC. The history on the project between BBC Research and Consulting and the City of Charlotte: BBC is working with Infrastructure Strategies and the City of Charlotte to assess the capacity of local businesses and the local workforce in anticipation of an increase in transportation-related work in the City over the coming years. The BBC is speaking with business owners, representatives of trade organizations and workforce development programs, and City leadership to understand the current marketplace and provide recommendations on how the City can close any gaps or address needs to support equitable and sustainable development. The purpose of the focus group is to discuss what it is like to start or grow a business, the challenges and barriers firms like yours face, and your firm's experiences, if relevant, working with or attempting to work with the City of Charlotte. These insights will contribute to the BBC's understanding of and documentation on marketplace conditions, as well as recommendations for the City to consider.
- IV. **CBI Updates:**
 - Welcomed Jeremy Johnson as the newest member of CBIAC
 - Appreciated Zahn and her willingness and eagerness to step up as President.
 - Still waiting on House Bill 171 and SB 257- which would abolish the HUB. But we have a basis to continue through the SBE program and will continue

to serve Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) and Woman Business Enterprise (WBE). In the process of tweaking who would be considered.

- Annual report is completed but dependent on leadership reviewing it, then council and then we can share it with CBIAC.
- CBI has two positions that are open- Still deciding if CBI Coordinator position will be hired for, but ideally by next meeting we will have a new CBI Compliance position filled.
- We are still CBI but now under the department of Contracting and Procurement and newly managed by Cheryl Wright who comes to us from union county will be our new assistant manager. Steve has a good feeling about her!
- CBI BluPrint is moving smoothy. 8 participating business are really enjoying and finding value in the program. The launch also went well.
- Contractor development program- impactful but expensive- we are considering how to move forward to next year- understanding our limitations but also understanding that the bonding challenges are real.
 - Zahn shared that these firms may not understand how these bills are impacting them! How can we help them be aware of how it may affect them in real time.
 - Julius is meeting with Candice on a weekly meeting and will be pushing a marketing statedly with CC&M(Charlotte Communications & Marketing) to make folks aware of this issue & how this information impacts them.

Subcommittee Share outs

- Economic Development -Christina: The team will be meeting with Danielle Frazier given her presentation last week.
- Outreach & Engagement -Candice: A main focus is to make sure that Julius is no longer a team of 1- Julius has been asked to share his list of upcoming events.
- Impact and Accountability- Jerome met with Steve, Nyema and Jasmine requesting data and information to support evidence that our work is needed and justified.

V. Adjournment: There being no additional business, Chairman Patin called for a motion to adjourn. At 11:25 Candice Gaddy motioned & Kim Lam 2nd.

	Action Items	Assigned To	Due Date
1.	Invite Cheryl to next CBIAC	Steve & Jasmine	10/8

2.	Julius & Candice keep us updated on the strategy to support vendors to understand how these bills impact them.	Julius & Candice	10/8
3.	Lina will provide slides and work with Steve & Nyema to provide more information about the bills.	Lina/ Steve/ Nyema	10/8
4.	Zahn shared- If you get this question--Is it still beneficial to get NC HUB certified? Yes, if you are not certified, please work to get your NC HUB M/W certifications for your business. At this time there have been no official changes to the HUB or CBI program.	ALL	ASAP
5.	Utilize CBIAC to host a virtual event to help vendors understand how these potential bills affect them and how certifying as a SBE is beneficial.	ALL	ASAP

The action items captured from the Sep 10th, 2025, CBIAC Committee Meeting are as follows:

Sep 10th, 2025, CBIAC Meeting Summary and Action Items submitted by:

Jasmine Timmons 09/10/2025