



Charlotte Business INCLUSION
Advisory Committee
Wednesday, March 19th, 2025
10:00 –11:30 a.m.
Meeting Summary and Action Items

- I. **Attendance:** Ciara Lilly, Zahn Patin, Marjory Brifil, Candice Gaddy, Lakesha Womack, Joaquin Soria, Jason Deans, Raghu Kotha, Kim Lam, Erlan Martinez, Christina Jarrett, Kymberlyn (Kym) Gardner
- II. **Absent:** Gary Beal, Jerome Marez
- Staff:** Jasmine Timmons, Steven Coker, Julius Edwards, Jamila Buckner, Nyema Mathis, Venesia Draughn, Loretta Mackey
- III. **Welcome:** at Chairman Ciara Lilly Opened the meeting at 10:02.
- IV. **Approval:** Raghu Kotha motioned, and Jason Deans seconded to approve Feb 12th 2025 meeting minutes.
- V. **Economic Development:**
- Matt Dufore shared a presentation (Attached) which focused on City of Charlotte business recruitment. There was a question around the types of business's ED is recruiting – Matt mentioned that CPCC and Goodwill are beneficial as it relates to training. Attention was brought to the fact that placement after graduation is the more pressing issue. Matt suggested Danielle Frazier, ED and CBI have a collaborative meeting.
- VI. **CBI Program Update:**
- **General updates:** Steve gave updates and started out with affirmation and gratitude- Mentioned internal Audit and how compliance has turned the numbers around. Compliance will be going to Arizona to better explore B2G Development. Outreach and Engagement is critically important, and we are asking for all hands-on deck. Ciara mentioned talking about potentially creating an event to talk about succession planning. There are creative ways to keep ownership diverse. But the knowledge is missing! Suggested potentially bringing some of these larger businesses to the table and create our own venture capital opportunities. Steve mentioned challenges with House bill 171 – The City is paying attention and being mindful and we have the benefit of being able to pivot if necessary. Steve shared about a strategy session we had that was led by Assistant City Manager Monica

Allen. The team did a SWAT analysis and will be able to move forward in the next month or so and integrate the things presented to strengthen our program. The Annual report is being worked on- the focus continues to be on M's & W's and if need be we will pivot to S's. Julius shared about The business Connections event with a goal of almost 300 attendees. Contractor Development is making strides- Much thanks to Zahn. CBI University is moving towards creating a CBI Blueprint- to pour into a few firms and give them tailored support.

- VII. Subcommittee Assignments & Next steps:** Ciara shared an updated power point (attached)
- **Outreach & Engagement:** Interested: Raghu, Kim, Candice, Erlan,
 - **Workforce Development:** Jason, Lakesha, Christina, Majorie
 - **Impact and Accountability:** Joaquin, Jerome, Gary, Kym (More discussion needed)
 - For Leads/ Co-Leads- A meeting will be set up to prepare for success
 - A doodle will go out with dates and times for subcommittees
- VIII. New Business: Help filling Seats**
- **Hispanic Contractors Association**
 - **Carolina Association of General Contractors**
 - **Metrolina Native American Association**
 - Committee will support on the backend
- IX. Open Discussion:**
- **Next Meeting:** April 9th In Person (600 E Trade St. rm.106)
 - **Agenda for next meeting** (See below in Task)
- X. Adjournment:** There being no additional business, Chairman Lilly called for a motion to adjourn. Joaquin Soria the motion, and Raghu Kotha seconded it. The meeting adjourned at 11:29

March 19th, 2025, CBIAC Meeting Summary submitted by:

Jasmine Timmons 03/19/2025