

PDC Establishes East Portland Enterprise Zone

The state of Oregon has approved PDC's application to establish an Enterprise Zone (E-Zone) focused predominantly on geography east of Cesar Chavez Boulevard.

The application was supported by numerous public and private entities, including Multnomah County, the Technology Association of Oregon, Greater Portland Inc., Columbia Corridor Association, the Port of Portland and the Portland City Council.

The E-Zone is a state economic development program proven to support business growth, job creation and community benefits from companies which make capital investments in their operations. In return, eligible companies receive a five-year property tax abatement on the value of their new investment.

The E-Zone program presents one of Portland's strongest economic development tools for retaining and attracting jobs and employment. Since 1996, with more than 50 companies participating and 30 firms currently active, the City's E-Zone program in North/Northeast Portland has leveraged more than \$1 billion in private investments and has created and retained more than 5,000 full-time, quality jobs. In 2009 alone, E-Zone companies purchased \$60 million in materials, supplies and services from other companies in Portland.

The new E-Zone will exist between Northeast Airport Way and Milwaukie and between Southeast Cesar Chavez Boulevard and Gresham. East Portland has both a growing population and increased diversity, but job and economic growth have not kept up at the same pace.

"We've seen the E-zone bring considerable benefits to the businesses and residents in North and Northeast Portland over the last 15 years," PDC Executive Director Patrick Quinton said.

For more info go to www.pdc.us.

Home Forward Contracting and Equity Assistant Director Focuses on Mentoring

By Bruce Poinsette
Of The Skanner News

Cinna'Mon Williams has worked in government procurement for over 15 years. She is currently the assistant director for Contracting and Equity at Home Forward. She is responsible for oversight of all aspects of the agency's professional services, construction, social service and maintenance related contractual agreements. In addition, she acts as the agency's representative for economic equity and manages the procurement card program. Prior, Williams worked in a variety of Procurement positions at Metro Regional Government for ten years.

She is a long term active member of the Oregon Association of Minority Entrepreneurs (OAME) and the past chair of the OAME Advisory Board, a member of the executive board of the Business Diversity Institute (BDI), a board member of the local chapter of the National Forum for Black Public Administrators (NFBPA), actively



Williams believes diversity in the local procurement arena should include the individuals working on the procurement team, as well as the vendors and contractors getting the work

involved in the American Contract Compliance Association (ACCA), an active participant of the Oregon Public Purchasing Association (OPPA) and past board member

of the Columbia Chapter of the National Institute of NIGP.

"It is my goal to coach and mentor young professionals of color interested in government procurement," says Williams.

She believes diversity in the local procurement arena should include the individuals working on the procurement team, as well as the vendors and contractors getting the work. Her vision includes consistent inclusion of people of color and women on Home Forward projects in both direct contracts and on the sub-tier level. She wants to ensure that Home Forward residents have access to meaningful employment and workforce opportunities.

Williams says she looks for a number of factors when awarding contracts to MWESBs, the primary one being that they work to increase their capacity.

"In the end, we want to see the MWESB's that have worked on Home Forward projects move on to larger projects and to reach back and mentor up and coming MWESB businesses," she says.

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Project Clean Slate operates in tandem with Multnomah County District Attorney's Office and in cooperation with Multnomah County Circuit Court. It is a program of Independent Development Enterprise Alliance, a nonprofit organization.

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