

**HOUSING AUTHORITY OF NEW ORLEANS  
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
REGULAR MEETING  
MAY 15, 2012**

**RESOLUTION No. 2012-18**

**WHEREAS**, HANO and The City of New Orleans were awarded a \$30.5 million Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) grant from HUD the revitalization of the Iberville public housing development and the surrounding neighborhoods on August 31, 2011; and

**WHEREAS**, on May 17, 2011 HANO contracted with GCR & Associates, Inc. and Clifton James, LLC, with their subcontractor as Black Men of Labor to develop HANO's capacity for community engagement and development in conjunction with the CNI grant in the CNI neighborhood bounded by Rampart St., St. Bernard Ave., Broad St., and Tulane Ave.; and

**WHEREAS**, during this past year's contract period, Black Men of Labor has demonstrated exclusive ability to build trust with grassroots and community-based groups in the neighborhoods surrounding the Iberville development and their established presence and relationships with the people and businesses in the neighborhood, which is critical to the success of the redevelopment and transformation of the neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS**, the HANO Administrative Receiver, who is also the Contracting Officer, has therefore decided that it is in the best interest of HANO to directly engage the services of the Black Men of Labor as a community engagement consultant; and

**WHEREAS**, this engagement will allow HANO to directly manage the critical tasks of the Black men of Labor and provide better oversight of these activities; and

**WHEREAS**, now that the CNI grant activities are in motion, especially the housing redevelopment throughout the neighborhood, it is critical to have a consultant directly contracted to HANO who will ensure that the correct information is disseminated to all residents and grassroots and community-based groups, and that the input and involvement of the surrounding community is integrated into the plan; and

**WHEREAS**, the use of the noncompetitive procurement is justified by the exclusive nature of the services provided as well as the exigency required for the services in order to maintain momentum for CNI; and

**WHEREAS**, Black Men of Labor have submitted a proposal for community engagement work that continues and adjusts the scope of work to more accurately address the realities encountered during the past year in the CNI neighborhood. Further, the cost proposal, established an estimate amount not to exceed \$200,000 and proposed hourly rates for the provision of the required services. The proposal submitted was reviewed, and the fees were determined to be fair and reasonable. This determination was based on a comparison of the rates provided in HANO's existing contract for the provision of these services; and

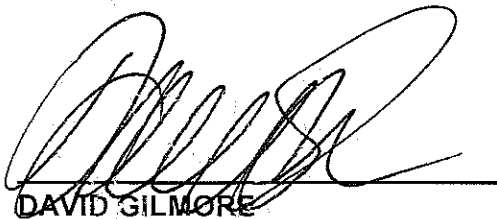
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**WHEREAS**, it is recommended that approval be given to execute a contract with Black Men of Labor to provide HANO with community engagement consulting services in conjunction with the New Orleans Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, and the transformation of the CNI neighborhood.

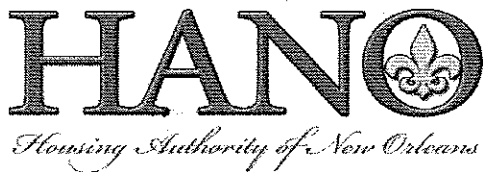
**THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Board of Commissioners of the Housing Authority of New Orleans authorizes the Administrative Receiver to execute a contract with the Black Men of Labor in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to provide HANO with community engagement consulting services in conjunction with the New Orleans Choice Neighborhoods Initiative and the transformation of the CNI neighborhood.

Executed this 15<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2012.

**APPROVAL:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Gilmore', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and cursive.

**DAVID GILMORE**  
**ADMINISTRATIVE RECEIVER**  
**CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS**



May 15, 2012

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** David Gilmore  
Administrative Receiver

**From:** Angela Anderson  
Director of Procurement and Contracting

Maggie Merrill  
Senior Advisor to the Administrative Receiver

**Re:** Community Engagement Consultant for the Iberville Revitalization Initiative

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The scope of work for this procurement provides for the provision of community engagement consulting services in connection with the Iberville Revitalization Initiative. This procurement was conducted using the noncompetitive procurement method. The noncompetitive procurement method is allowed in accordance with 24 CFR 85.36(d)(4)(i)(A-D) in instances where the item or service is only available from a single source, public exigency will not permit a delay resulting from competitive solicitation, or after solicitation of a number of sources, competition is determined inadequate.

The Housing Authority of New Orleans (HANO) issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on Wednesday, January 5, 2011 for the purpose of procuring a qualified and experienced firm and/or individual to develop HANO's capacity for community engagement in conjunction with the revitalization of the Iberville public housing development (Iberville) and its surrounding neighborhoods, pursuant to Request for Proposals Number 11-101-01-01.

Proposals were received in response to that solicitation on Tuesday, January 25, 2011 from the following firms:

- Clifton James, LLC/Black Men of Labor
- GCR/Bright Moments/Metro Source/Urban Focus
- Spears Consulting Group

HANO subsequently entered into a contract with GCR & Associates, Inc. and Clifton James, LLC, with their subcontractor as Black Men of Labor. During this past year's contract period, Black Men of Labor has demonstrated exclusive ability to build trust with grassroots and community-based groups in the neighborhoods surrounding the Iberville development and establish presence and relationships with the people and businesses in the neighborhood, which is critical to the success of the redevelopment and transformation of the neighborhood. The HANO Administrative Receiver, who is also the Contracting Officer, has therefore decided that it is in the best interest of HANO to directly engage the services of the Black Men of Labor

as a community engagement consultant. This engagement will provide HANO with better oversight of these activities and the ability to directly manage the critical contract tasks of the Black Men of Labor.

The use of the noncompetitive procurement method is further justified by the immediate need to directly engage a community engagement consultant to assist in the implementation of the Choice Neighborhoods Initiative (CNI) grant. The exigency for the services is in large part due to ongoing activities currently underway in connection with CNI which requires the immediate need for specific community engagement and development activities. Now that the grant activities are underway especially housing redevelopment throughout the neighborhood, it is critical to have a consultant directly contracted to HANO who will ensure that the correct information is disseminated to all residents and grassroots and community-based groups and that the input and involvement of the surrounding community is integrated into agency plans..

In executing the sole source procurement procedures, a proposal was requested from Black Men of Labor via an informal solicitation process. The solicitation was not advertised. Given that Black Men of Labor (BMOL) is currently performing many of the required tasks under its subcontract with Clifton James and has demonstrated its capacity to perform the services required to continue the community engagement activities, BMOL was asked to provide a proposal that continued and adjusted the scope of work to more accurately address the realities encountered during the past year. In addition, Black Men of Labor is a respected group that has developed broad relationships and support in the Iberville/Tremé/Lafitte neighborhood and can deliver community relationships and trust to HANO and the CNI initiative.

Black Men of Labor submitted a proposal inclusive of costs estimated not to exceed the amount of \$200,000. Hourly rates for the provision of the required scope of services was also provided. The proposal submitted was reviewed and the fees were determined to be fair and reasonable. This determination was based on a comparison of the rates provided in HANO's existing contract for the provision of these services.

A due diligence review has been conducted on Black Men of Labor. The review consisted of reference verifications, whereby HANO personnel were contacted to respond to questions regarding the previous performance of the contractor. Additionally, the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement and Non Procurement Programs was checked to ensure that the firm is not debarred from participation in federally funded contracts. Results from the due diligence review indicate that the contractor is responsible.

I hereby certify that this procurement was conducted in accordance with all applicable Federal and State regulations and laws, and in accordance with HANO's procurement policy. It is hereby requested that approval be given to execute a contract directly with Black Men of Labor in an amount not to exceed \$200,000 to provide HANO with community engagement consulting services in conjunction with the New Orleans Choice Neighborhoods Initiative, and the transformation of the CNI neighborhood.