



January 14, 2010

Re: Pima County Professional Services Procurement Practices

Dear Chief Executive Officer:

The purpose of this email is to invite you or your firm's representative to testify before the Pima County Small Business Commission (Commission) at a public hearing to be held at 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 4, 2010 in the Pima County Board of Supervisors Chambers on the first floor of the County Administration Building, located at 130 West Congress Street in Tucson, Arizona. The hearing is being held at the direction of Board of Supervisors.

The purpose of the hearing is to listen to testimony from professional service firms on the County's present procurement practices with regard to the selecting of qualified professional services.

The Commission is particularly interested in testimony concerning both the County's Quality Based Selection (QBS) and Quality Consultants List (QCL) processes, as well as the minority, woman-owned and small business enterprises (M/W/SBE) evaluation process. The Commission is also interested in ways to evaluate local versus national professional services firms.

While these particular topics have come to the Commission's attention since it received the Board of Supervisors direction on November 19, 2009, we welcome any testimony that you think will improve the professional services procurement process.

This public hearing is neither a whitewash nor a witch hunt. It is an attempt by the Commission – composed of Pima County small business owners – to give professional services providers – many of whom are small business owners – an opportunity to enhance the procurement process and expand their own opportunities for profitable business.

We hope that your firm will participate in this hearing.

The Commission will accept written testimony at the address below up to the day of the hearing. We ask that you contact our Recording Secretary, Ms. Aurora Hernandez, if you are going to testify in person. Her direct telephone number is 520.243.7356. Her email address is aurora.hernandez@pima.gov. If you have any questions about the hearing, please feel free to contact me. My direct telephone number is 520.648.0847.

The Commission looks forward to your participation in this important hearing.

Yours sincerely,

Tom Ward
Chairman